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Vol. 18
2008-2009

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte



Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

OCTOBER 31, 2008

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 1

INSIDE

Inserted in this issue is
the Diocese of Charlotte's
annual finance report.

SEE INSERT

CAMPAIGN '08

Bettering environment may depend on political climate

*Faith-based activists
weighing in on issues
and policy*

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is fifth in a
series on the 2008 election.*

WASHINGTON — The difficulties posed by the fouling of the environment — which takes in a wide array of issues such as climate change, freshwater availability, vehicle emissions, and pesticides and potentially fatal bacteria in crops — are daunting for any president to tackle.

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama's campaign platform calls for the creation of 5 million new "green-collar" jobs.

Other planks in his platform

See CAMPAIGN, page 7

Foundation gives grant to parish school

*Funds to assist special
tutoring program*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — A tutoring program at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury will again receive funding from a diocesan grant to continue its work in providing children with one-on-one assistance.

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To have and to hold

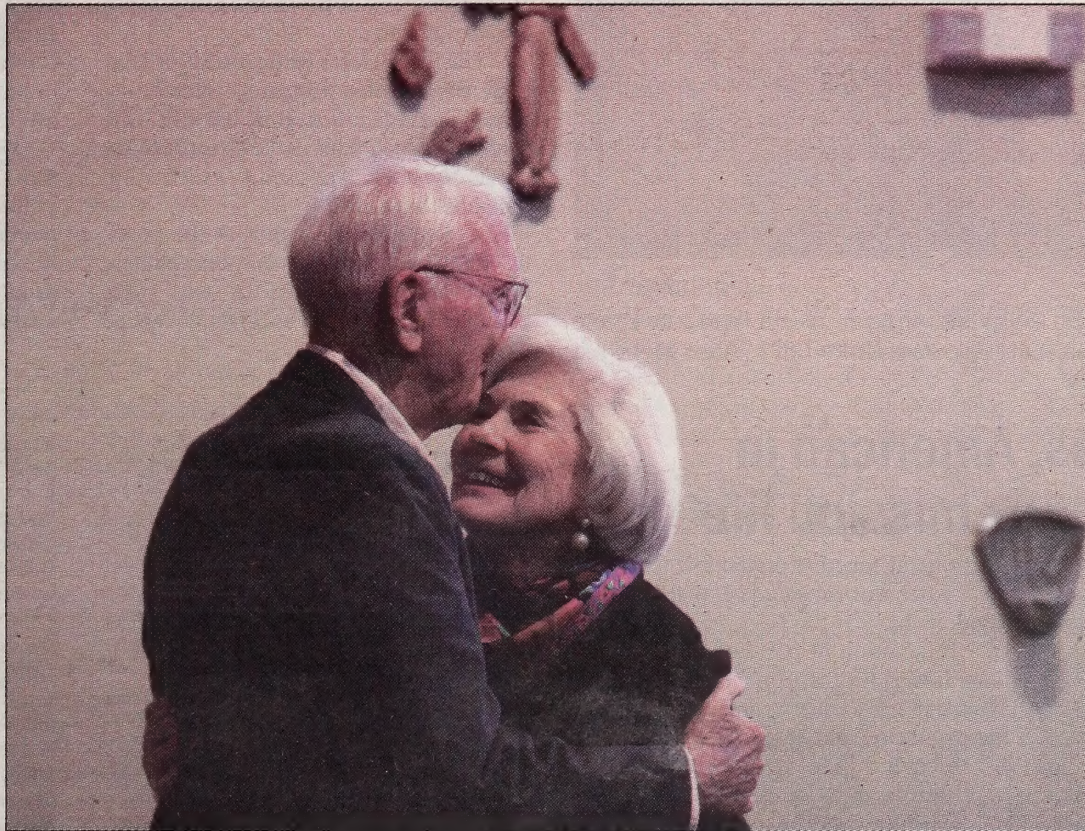


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bill and Mary Ann Seeberg embrace during the vow renewal portion of the diocesan wedding anniversary Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Oct. 26. The Seebergs, parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, are celebrating 60 years of marriage.

Couples celebrate milestone wedding anniversaries, renew vows

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Couples celebrating golden and silver wedding anniversaries were honored by the Diocese of Charlotte during a special Mass last weekend.

This year 112 couples from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte were invited to renew their matrimonial vows during the diocesan wedding anniversary celebration held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Oct. 28.

"The annual diocesan wedding anniversary liturgy is such a wonderful event that celebrates the perseverance and dedication of couples to their marriages," said Gerard Carter, Family Life Office director for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, who

See WEDDING, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI holds the Book of the Gospels as he says Mass at the end of the Synod of Bishops on the Bible in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 26.

To love thy neighbor

*Pope closes synod, says Bible is put
into practice through service*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of a
series on the Bible.*

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI closed the Synod of Bishops on the Bible by preaching a lesson on love of God and neighbor, saying the word of God must be put into practice through service to others.

The concluding liturgy came after the pope accepted 55 final synod propositions, including a proposal that women be admitted to the official ministry of lector, or Scripture reader, at Mass.

Joined by more than 250 bishops at a Mass Oct. 26 in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

A MISSION OF FAITH IN MEXICO



CNS PHOTO BY JONATHAN ROEDER

U.S. Maryknoll lay missionary Kathy Vargas (right) spends time with Bertha Ramirez Perea in the L'Arche community home for the developmentally challenged in Queretaro, Mexico, Oct. 2. Vargas has worked almost four decades as a missionary in Mexico.

Despite hardships, American in Mexico recommends mission life

QUERETARO, Mexico (CNS) — Through almost four decades of missionary work, American Kathy Vargas has had to suffer through threats, hardship and indifference.

In the 1970s, wealthy landowners in the jungles of Chiapas state threatened Vargas and her husband for evangelizing to indigenous groups and teaching them to defend their rights. In the '80s, the couple saw their Mexico City neighborhood devastated by an earthquake.

More recently, Vargas has faced a struggle to raise funds and get the government interested in a community center that teaches self-respect and civic values to thousands of schoolchildren.

She shrugs off these difficulties.

"I recommend mission life, highly," said Vargas, a Maryknoll lay missionary since the mid-1980s. The rewards, she said, outweigh the difficulties "one hundredfold."

Vargas, who grew up in Ohio, arrived in San Cristobal de Las Casas in 1970 as a Maryknoll sister. She spoke no Spanish and she soon realized being a nun was not her calling. But she had met then-Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de Las Casas, an advocate of indigenous rights, who invited her to work in the diocese.

So in 1973, she went to work as a lay member of the pastoral team in the town of Ocosingo, where missionaries had access to many of the indigenous populations. That same year she married Javier Vargas, a Mexico City native who had been working in Chiapas as a missionary for more than a decade. Between 1973 and 1981, the couple had three children and adopted a fourth.

At the time, wealthy ranchers regularly seized land and pushed indigenous groups farther into the isolated, undeveloped jungle. There they celebrated weddings, baptisms and other

sacraments together on the few days of a year when a priest could get to the village by donkey.

In addition to pastoral work, Kathy and Javier Vargas also helped translate Mexican agrarian law for local residents to understand and defend their rights.

With hostilities from ranchers rising, the family moved to San Cristobal to continue working with indigenous groups. In 1981, they moved to Mexico City where Vargas helped organize day care co-ops for working mothers.

She helped organize healthy-baby clinics and put rural farmers in touch with local buyers to improve profits. She and her husband also helped with relief efforts following the 1985 earthquake that killed an estimated 10,000 Mexico City residents.

Rising crime led the Vargas family to move in 1993 to Queretaro, where Vargas helped launch the Queretaro Community Foundation, which coordinates programs for public schools.

The foundation, where Vargas is a board member but receives no salary, also offers extracurricular and civic responsibility programs for children, directs courses to improve the abilities of nongovernmental organizations and advises regional companies on issues such as employee relations and environmental responsibility.

Vargas also serves as a leader for L'Arche, which administers a community home for those with developmental challenges.

She said her efforts "continue to be driven by faith."

"It's wonderful, the mission experience, in that it strips away all of your props and all the things you could fall back on in your own culture, and it makes you very vulnerable," she said. "But the vulnerability itself is what allows you to grow into a different person."

Orissa government expedites case of nun raped by Hindu fanatics

NEW DELHI (CNS) — The Orissa state government has decided to expedite the case of a Catholic nun who was raped during the recent anti-Christian violence in the eastern Indian state.

The move came after the nun spoke at a press conference Oct. 24 in the Jesuit-managed Indian Social Institute in New Delhi.

The 28-year-old nun, who addressed the media with her face covered up to her eyes, was flanked by another nun and a female lawyer.

She fought tears while reading a four-page handwritten statement recounting how Hindu fanatics attacked her. She said she had no faith in the Orissa police, whom she alleged refused to help her but aided her attackers.

A day after the nun met the press, Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik convened a meeting in the state capital and directed officials to speed

up the case.

The nun was raped Aug. 25, the day after Hindu fanatics began weeks of sustained violence against Christians in Orissa in response to the murder of a Hindu leader. The violence left at least 58 people dead.

Radical Hindu groups in the media accused the nun of not cooperating and of hiding from the police. They also demanded that she marry her rapist.

The nun met the press three days after the Supreme Court rejected a church petition that sought to have the Central Bureau of Investigation, the premier federal investigation agency, investigate the rape.

The Supreme Court asked the nun to cooperate with the state police investigation after the Orissa government said in an affidavit that the investigation into the case was progressing and that police already had arrested eight people.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All women of the diocese are invited to hear Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church, speak about "Catholic Responsibilities Regarding Voting" at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gayle Bell at gbell56@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — In observance of All Souls Day, a special Mass for the deceased will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on Sunday Nov. 2. The names of those who have died this past year will be read at the 12:30 Mass, which will include special music. The names of those who have died will also be printed in the parish bulletin. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A Veteran's Day Mass will be held St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 9, at 10:45 a.m. The front rows of the church will be reserved for all veterans,

active duty personnel and their families. All are invited to attend. The Mass will include an honor guard provided by the USAR 108th Training Command, patriotic music and a special blessing by Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. Active duty military are encouraged to wear their uniforms. For more information, call Kathleen Wilsbach of Connector's Ministry at (704)-844-9450 or e-mail kwilsbach@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the Christian Mother's Group will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a child are invited to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. If you would like to bring a photo or other memorabilia of a child, tables will be available to place them on when you arrive. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A series of talks, "Understanding Your Late Life Choices," will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The next talk, "A Lawyer's View — Making Your Money Last," will be Nov. 5. These talks are free and open to the public. To make reservations, call St. Gabriel Church at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., will host "Sacred Intimacy: An Ignatian Retreat for Women" Nov. 8. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., retreat starts at 9 a.m. Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning of reflection. There is no cost to attend the event and parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, call

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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OCTOBER 31, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 1

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican finishes work on psychological testing of seminary candidates

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has finished work on a long-awaited document on the psychological testing of seminary candidates.

The document, titled "Guidelines for the Use of Psychology in the Admission and Formation of Candidates for the Priesthood," was released at a Vatican press conference Oct. 30.

The text was prepared by the Congregation for Catholic Education, which had worked on the document for at least six years.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II told the education congregation that a candidate's ability to live a life of priestly celibacy must be "carefully verified" so that there is moral certainty about the candidate's emotional and sexual maturity.

"In light of present-day social and cultural changes, it can be at times useful that educators turn to the work of competent specialists to help seminarians comprehend more thoroughly the requirements of the priesthood, recognizing celibacy as a gift of love to the Lord and to one's brothers," Pope John Paul said.

Later in 2005, the congregation issued norms that ruled out the priestly ordination of homosexuals, but without spelling out who should determine whether a candidate had homosexual tendencies.

Sources have said one reason the document took so long to prepare was that the psychological testing of priesthood candidates remains a controversial issue at the Vatican.

Speaking at the press conference was Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the education congregation; Archbishop Jean-Louis Brugues, secretary of the congregation; and Father Carlo Bresciani, a psychologist and a consultant to the congregation who has written on bioethics and sexual morality.

the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail retreat4women@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning *Adult Spirituality* series takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "The Mystery of the Church: Encouraging the Age of the Laity," will be held Nov. 10. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant mid-day prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — A novena of prayerful eucharistic adoration will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 26 following the 12:30 pm Mass and continue for nine days, ending Nov. 3 with Benediction at 7 pm. During that time all are invited to join in prayerful discernment of their upcoming votes. This time of adoration will continue around the clock, interrupted only by Mass. This is not a time for campaigning or discussion, just private adoration and prayer. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All men of the Triad area are invited to participate in a short study of Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical, "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), Tuesdays at St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., 6:30-7:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — A Men's Evening of Reflection will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Nov. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. This month's theme is "Never, Never, Ever Quit," and will feature a

reflection on the virtue of perseverance in the lives of men who are husbands, fathers, workers and apostles. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the library at 6:30 p.m., followed by the talk in the church, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — In keeping with the special Pauline year as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, a special dramatic presentation entitled "St. Paul: His Story" will be presented by Paulist Father James DiLuzio, a missionary, actor and singer at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. Admittance is free. Father DiLuzio works out of New York City, traveling throughout the country with this powerful presentation on the life and work of St. Paul. For more information, contact Jeannine Martin at (336) 294-4696, extension 225.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at Exodus Missionary Outreach Church, 1763 Highland Ave. NE, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. This celebration will explore how we can reach out with God's love to those behind bars with the theme "God's Wisdom Set's Us Free." Guest speaker will be Deacon Scott Gilfillan from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton. He will speak about his experience in prison ministry. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope to visit Africa in March to help prepare for October synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI announced that he plans to make his first trip to Africa next March, visiting Cameroon and Angola.

The pope will make the trip to help prepare for the Synod of Bishops on Africa, scheduled for October 2009, and to mark the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of Angola.

He announced the trip Oct. 26 at a closing Mass for the Synod of Bishops on the Bible. When he repeated the announcement shortly afterward to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, a wave of applause swept through the crowd.

Sub-Saharan Africa has not hosted a pope since 1998, when Pope John Paul II visited Nigeria.

Pope Benedict said his intention was to meet with representatives from African bishops' conferences in Cameroon and hand-deliver the African synod's "instrumentum laboris," or working document.

The Synod of Bishops will be the second for Africa and is scheduled to take place in Rome. The theme is "The Church in Africa at the Service of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace."

The first African synod took place at the Vatican in 1994. Ten years later, Pope John Paul said another synod would be held to allow church leaders to address the continent's changing religious, demographic, social and political scenes.

Pope Benedict said he would go from Cameroon to Angola, where he will celebrate the 500th anniversary of that country's evangelization.

The Angolan church has been marking different stages of the 500th anniversary for many years, beginning with Pope John Paul's visit there in 1992.

Exact dates for Pope Benedict's trip have not been released. The Vatican's advance team was in Africa in mid-October to firm up preparations.

Pope Benedict has made 10 foreign trips since his election in 2005. So far, the African trip is the only one on his calendar for 2009.

Faithful celebration



CNS PHOTO BY UCAN

Vietnamese Catholics attend Mass in My Hung, a remote mountainous area in Yen Bai province in northern Vietnam Oct. 23. Catholics in this area, many of whom were forced to move there 34 years ago, are happy to have their first resident priest after decades of relying on visiting priests. About 1,000 ethnic-majority Kinh and ethnic-minority Hmong Vietnamese Catholics rushed to their wooden church to welcome Father Pierre Do Dinh Den.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 1 (12 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

Nov. 4 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Nov. 6 (6:30 p.m.)
Room at the Inn of the Carolinas banquet
Embassy Suites, Greensboro

Nov. 7 (2 p.m.)
Mass and dedication of altar for
St. Joseph Adoration Chapel
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

First advocate graduates from online training program



COURTESY PHOTO

Joyce Eckart (center), a parishioner of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, is congratulated on her graduation from the online advocacy training program by Jesuit Father Joe Kappes, parochial vicar, and Joy Barnes, diocesan tribunal advocate, at the church Oct. 8.

Eckart to assist in marriage annulment processes

CHARLOTTE — A local Catholic has become the first in the Diocese of Charlotte to graduate from the diocesan tribunal's online Advocacy Training Course.

Joyce Eckart, a parishioner of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, completed the training Oct. 8.

The tribunal, or church court, handles the marriage nullity process, working under a set of procedures and laws established as part of the universal law of the Catholic Church.

As an advocate, Eckart will help fellow parishioners navigate the Catholic Church's annulment process. She will represent one of the parties in a case — advising, helping assemble the case and speaking for that party in the process.

Eckart's online training began in June. Within four months, she completed the course and took the oath of office, which binds all advocates to protect the privacy of all parties involved in the annulment process.

Eckart has already begun working with new cases at St. Therese Church under the supervision of a mentor and will soon be appointed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis as a tribunal officer.

She is also a 2007 graduate of the diocesan lay ministry program.

"It was during those two years that the Holy Spirit guided me to the advocate program," said Eckart.

As an advocate, Eckart feels she can help bring Catholics back to the sacraments.

"I believe that marriage is hard work and requires graces that are strengthened because of one's relationship with God and the church community," she said.

"Thoughtful Catholics who want to reconnect with the community and be strengthened in the Eucharist need our support," she added.

Prior to 2008, diocesan tribunal advocates were trained in a classroom

"I believe marriage is hard work and requires graces that are strengthened because of one's relationship with God"

— Joyce Eckart

setting. The program was taken online this year to allow students to work at their own pace and from their own homes.

"I believe that the e-mail format allowed me to continue in the program," said Eckart. "With fuel prices and my busy schedule, realistically I might not have been able to complete the course."

During the online training, lessons are emailed to the students. Exercises or case studies for each lesson are submitted the same way and then returned to the students with comments, along with the next lesson.

"The feedback provided was clear and on target," said Eckart. "In every case, it clarified my thinking."

There are currently 10 advocates in training from cities around the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte.

In fall 2007, an advocate was assigned to each of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese. As the Catholic population continues to grow, the advocates have become the "hands and feet" of the tribunal in many of the outlying churches.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the advocate program, contact tribunal advocate Joy Barnes at (704) 370-3343 or jmbarnes@charlottediocese.org.

To carry to term



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Participants listen to a presentation during a conference on poor prenatal diagnosis at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 24.

Poor prenatal diagnosis conference held in Charlotte

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — People from around the Diocese of Charlotte attended a conference on poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD) at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 24.

The conference, themed "God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis," was hosted by Elizabeth Ministry in conjunction with the diocesan Respect Life Program of Catholic Social Services' Family Life Office.

The purpose of the conference was to help the Catholic community better encourage parents to carry their babies to term after a PPD, the detection of a fetal defect by way of prenatal screening tests.

With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying a baby with a PPD to term, 80 percent of these pregnancies end in abortion, according to Tammy Tate, founder and director of Carolina Perinatal Support Network in Greenville, S.C., who spoke at the conference.

"We are fortunate to have a service in place at St. Mark's (Church in Huntersville) that will first and foremost connect parents who are currently carrying to term with others who have done so previously," said Tracy Winsor, Elizabeth Ministry regional perinatal bereavement coordinator.

Elizabeth Ministry is an international outreach designed to support women and their families during the joys and sorrows of the childbearing years.

The Elizabeth Ministry at St. Mark Church recently initiated a perinatal hospice service.

"Its purpose is to support parents in dealing with the shock, grief and terrible sense of isolation that comes with the news of a fetal defect. In this diocese, no one has to be alone in that experience," said Winsor.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Elizabeth Ministry and resources and services, contact elizabethministry@roadrunner.com.

Kitchen knights

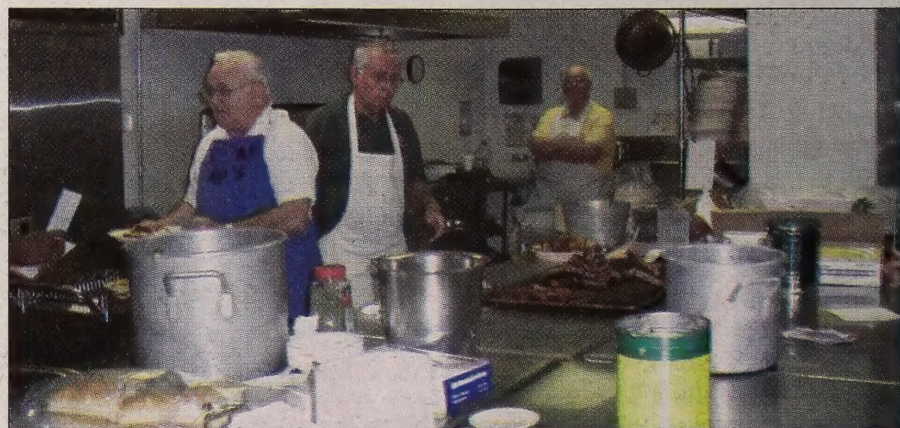


PHOTO BY FRED HOGAN

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 work the kitchen during a parish Oktoberfest dinner in Salesian Hall at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Oct. 11. The Knights sponsored the dinner, which was served to diners by youths of the parish. Pictured are Fred Schaefer, Al Livelberger and Dick Meyer, all three of whom are past grand knights of the council.

Oktoberfest is a festival held each year in Munich, Germany during late September and early October. It has inspired numerous similar events using the name around the world.

FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

John and Geri King, parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, renew their wedding vows during the diocesan wedding anniversary celebration at the church Oct. 26. Geri King is the director of the Charlotte Regional Office for Catholic Social Services. The Kings have been married for 25 years.

Couples celebrate milestone anniversaries

WEDDING, from page 1

organizes the annual event.

"We hear so much in the media about the decline of marriage and, while there are certainly statistics that support that, we see in these couples that grace-filled marriages do exist. These marriages are a testament to the sacrament of matrimony," he said.

According to the Family Life Office, 46 couples are celebrating 50 years and 65 couples are celebrating 25 years of marriage this year. One couple is celebrating 60 years.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the

"Today, we honor you anniversary couples for the witness of your love, for each other and for the Lord."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Mass with Deacon Mark Nash of St. Thomas Aquinas Church assisting.

"Today, we honor you anniversary couples for the witness of your love, for each other and for the Lord," said Bishop Jugis in his homily.

"You began your marriage with the celebration of the sacrament of holy matrimony. At that moment the Lord invited you to build your marriage as a solid foundation of Christ and at every Mass since then, you have continued to strengthen your marriage with the Lord's grace," said the bishop.

"Every vocation in the church is a response to Christ's love. The Lord called you to married life and to family life, and it is the Lord who sustains you in living out the daily commitment," said Bishop Jugis.

"May this anniversary Mass today help you turn in gratitude to God for his love and his blessings," he said.

After the Mass, the anniversary couples and their families joined Bishop Jugis for a reception in the parish hall.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Charles and Marlene Meahl renew their wedding vows Oct. 26.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Spacious Cottages Make Coming Home a Pleasure at Pennybyrn at Maryfield.



With only a few more remaining, the new cottages at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point are the perfect choice for those 62

and older seeking a full-service lifestyle in a well-established neighborhood.

These charming two-bedroom, two-bath cottages range from 1,458 to 1,710 square feet. Each is well appointed, with a fully equipped kitchen, bright, open interiors, a porch or patio, garage, and important safety features.

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close they are to all the energy and excitement of the community center."

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In addition to the cottages, the 71-acre Pennybyrn at Maryfield retirement community offers gracious apartment residences, a bustling community center, unparalleled services and the provision of on-site nursing care. With strong sponsorship by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Pennybyrn at Maryfield is the culmination

of 60 years of rich history, quality service and excellent reputation.

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NP/CNH/10-08



FROM THE COVER



COURTESY PHOTO

Dominican Sister Anastacia Pagulayan, Sacred Heart School principal, shakes hands with Ray Paradowski, diocesan foundation president, Sept. 14. Paradowski presented Sister Pagulayan with a \$3,500 grant for the school's tutoring program.

Foundation gives grant to parish school

GRANTS, from page 1

The \$3,500 grant was issued by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and presented to Dominican Sister Anastacia Pagulayan, Sacred Heart School principal, Sept. 14.

"The grants are directed toward educational efforts in assisting the parishes in various programs," said Ray Paradowski, foundation president.

"In this particular case at Sacred Heart School, it was a program to have direct tutoring," he said.

This is the second year that the program has received funding from the diocesan foundation. The tutoring program last year was done after school.

"This year we felt a better use of the money would be to do it in school as the children were going through things that were unfamiliar or that were challenging," said Frances Rash, a part-time employee of the school who initiated the tutoring program.

"It's very beneficial and our children need this service," said Rash of the program, which serves children who are identified by their teachers as needing extra review or one-on-one attention.

The program covers a wide variety of students and a wide variety of academic abilities, said Rash.

The tutor is a certified teacher who meets with the students once a week, "either working with them in the classroom or pulling them out for individual work," said Rash.

It is important that "our teachers know that there is someone there who can support them and help keep the children on track," she said.

"It's very beneficial and our children need this service."

— Frances Rash

The foundation has issued 20 grants totaling \$60,200 to churches, schools and agencies for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Grants come from the foundation's unrestricted endowment.

An endowment is a permanent fund, the principal of which is never touched, but the income from which can be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor organization or individual.

The foundation, founded in 1994, is a nonprofit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its churches, schools and agencies.

The foundation currently has 172 endowments.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the diocesan foundation or setting up an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, director of development, at (704) 370-3301 or jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

Foundation grants 2008-09

African American Affairs Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte
Command Spanish: A Guide for English Speakers \$3,000

Catholic Social Services Piedmont Triad Office
Parish outreach support program \$2,500

Catholic Social Services Refugee Office
Refugee employment support program \$4,000

Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office
Outreach services to immigrants \$3,000

Hispanic ministry, Greensboro Vicariate
Hispanic ministry programs \$2,000

Hispanic ministry, Smoky Mountain Vicariate
Teaching English to Hispanics \$3,000

Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Marion
Tables, chairs and faith formation materials \$5,000

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte
Food pantry outreach \$4,000

Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville
Youth faith formation training \$1,500

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe
Preschool for low-income and minority community \$3,000

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington
Education materials for faith formation \$1,500

Our Lady of Mercy School, Winston-Salem
Purchase materials to house donations for needy \$1,000

Sacred Heart School, Salisbury
Tutoring programs \$3,500

St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill
Hispanic ministry \$5,000

St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis
Scholarship funding \$4,200

St. Leo the Great School, Winston-Salem
Reading program for ESL and special needs \$3,000

Montagnard ministry, Diocese of Charlotte
Montagnard elder ministry \$1,500

St. Pius X School, Greensboro
Tuition assistance for extended day program \$2,500

St. Therese Church, Mooresville
Expansion of the Mooresville soup kitchen \$4,000

St. Joseph Church, Charlotte
Training and materials for youth program \$3,000

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Bettering environment may depend on political climate

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

include increasing to 10 percent by 2012, and to 25 percent by 2025, the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources; weatherizing 1 million homes annually; making greater efforts at energy efficiency; prioritizing the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline; and developing and deploying "clean coal" technology — although environmental advocates scoff at the concept, saying that mining practices and emissions from coal-fired plants means there's no such thing as clean coal.

Republican Sen. John McCain's campaign platform does not get into as many specifics as Obama's, save for a target for greenhouse gas emission cuts: returning emissions to 2005 levels by 2012, with subsequent benchmarks in 2020, 2030, and 2050, at which point emissions would be 66 percent below 2005 levels.

McCain embraces the "cap and trade" process found in the proposed Climate Security Act.

The Climate Security Act is a federal effort that would set a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit such gases.

"The key feature of this mechanism is that it allows the market to decide and encourage the lowest-cost compliance options," the McCain campaign's Web site says.

McCain's energy platform further calls for market-based solutions, technological advances and international engagement to combat climate change.

"As the science has become clearer, the Congress and the current president have become more engaged in climate change. Most of those science questions are answered," said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

"Congress needs to — and the current and future president need to — think about ways in which we can mitigate climate change."

The next president "will need to demonstrate some fairly serious and significant leadership in terms of the environment, but significantly, in terms of climate change," Misleh added.

"Someone has to be able to designate through very concrete ways that we need to put less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere," he told CNS.

"Besides the regulations and public policy changes, they also need to include

clear measures that will protect poor people from the effects of climate change, both at home and abroad," he said.

Leveraging issues

As Obama and McCain battle it out for the presidency, Catholic and other faith-based activists are studying the political environment to see how they can leverage environmental issues into policy come Jan. 20 and beyond.

In July, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, together representing more than 86,000 vowed men and women religious, jointly resolved to "seek concrete ways to curb environmental degradation, mitigate its impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people and restore right relationships among all God's creation; and to foster a consciousness of care for God's creation among all our members, colleagues, institutions and those whom we serve."

According to a report by the Commission to Engage African-Americans on Climate Change, African-Americans are more than twice as likely as whites to live in cities where the so-called "heat island" effect is expected to make temperature increases more severe.

At the same time, more blacks will be "fuel poor" as energy demand rises because of higher air-conditioning loads, population growth and urbanization.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, as a member of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, is involved in developing a climate change position paper that will include a section on recommendations for education and research.

The Iowa-based rural life conference also will conduct "Raise Your Voice" workshops in dioceses for a year starting this fall to increase knowledge about climate change and its effects, and to demonstrate how Catholics can affect local, state and federal policy through work with the media and elected officials — "with an emphasis on the federal level," said conference science and environmental education specialist Tim Kautza.

Not enough time remains for the current Congress to pass the proposed Climate Security Act, said Paul Gorman, executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, of which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is a member, but he said frank discussion with lawmakers kept the bill from being weakened.

Under the measure 10 percent of the



CNS PHOTO BY JIM WEST

Wind turbines are constructed at a wind energy farm in Mount Storm, W.Va., in this September 2007 file photo. Touted as a clean source of electrical power, wind energy is expected to generate a little more than 1 percent of the U.S. electricity supply this year.

revenues that would come from selling U.S. carbon emissions credits would provide assistance for poor nations affected by global warming.

"Unless we can engage with developing nations you're not going to have agreements to curtail global warming," Gorman said, adding that \$200 billion-\$300 billion in revenue was at stake.

Yet retiring Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a co-sponsor of the measure, excised that provision "under a lot of pressure from Republicans in the Senate and the White House," Gorman told Catholic News Service. "When people in the faith community heard about this, there was really very, very fierce concern. They got together with Warner and with (Sens. Joseph) Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) ... and said, 'If you take out a provision like this, faith groups are not going to be able to support this bill.'"

Warner backed down and reinserted the provision. Why?

"For the first time in the 18 years I've been working on this, it was the first time the religious community was unified," Gorman said. "They were really committed to doing something about an actual piece of legislation, and they were able to constitute a significant political force and threat."

The Senate committee got the message. They were really surprised," he said, adding "we were coming from authentic moral principle, we had done our homework and we made the case."

Environmental justice

In 1990, in the first paragraph of his World Day of Peace message, Pope John Paul II said that peace was threatened not only by war and aggression, but also by "lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline in the quality of life."

"The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness,

disregard for others and dishonesty."

Pope John Paul's successor, Pope Benedict XVI, continues to preach on environmental themes.

"The concerns for nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity," he said in Sydney, Australia, in July for World Youth Day.

"They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God himself," said the pope.

Although many point to Pope John Paul's message as the joining of Catholic social teaching to environmental issues, U.S. Catholics can point to antecedents in the 1975 pastoral letter "This Land Is Home To Me" by 25 bishops of the Appalachian region, and the 1980 pastoral on rural issues, "Strangers and Guests," by 72 bishops of the Midwest.

Since then, the U.S. bishops collectively, individually and in regional groupings have addressed environmental justice issues, including the USCCB's 2001 statement, "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good."

"Caring for God's creation means not only saving the animals and trees, but protecting humanity as well. Of particular concern to the church is how climate change and the response to it will affect poor and vulnerable people here at home and around the world," said Cecilia Calvo, project coordinator of the environmental justice program of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, in an online essay posted at the bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" Web site.

The bishops' 2007 document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," Calvo added, "urges Catholics to consider environmental issues before going to vote."

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Pope says Bible is put into practice through service

BIBLE, from page 1

the synod had highlighted a fundamental truth: that the church's missionary activity will fall flat unless it is nourished by scriptural reading and understanding.

Those who think they've understood Scripture but fail to implement its most important teachings — in particular, the double commandment to love God and neighbor — “show that they are still far from having grasped its profound meaning,” he said.

There is “a singular connection that exists between listening to God and unselfish service to one's brothers and sisters,” he said.

The papal liturgy closed an intense three-week period of speech-giving, small-group discussion and elaboration of final recommendations by the 253 voting members of the synod and some 50 other observers and experts.

One of the synod's strongest recommendations was to improve the scriptural aspect of homilies, and the pope seemed to offer a model at the closing Mass.

Examining St. Matthew's account of Christ's words on the “greatest commandment,” the pope began by looking at the historical context of Judaic law and the originality of what Christ was proposing.

Then he drew connections with the previous readings from the Book of Exodus and a letter of St. Paul to underscore a crucial point: “To be disciples of Christ is to put into practice his teachings, which are summarized in the first and greatest commandment of divine law, the commandment of love.”

The pope said the synod had helped the church focus on the importance of Scripture, and he urged participants to return home and launch a program of scriptural renewal in their dioceses and parishes.

He expressed his disappointment that bishops from mainland China were not allowed by their government to attend the synod. He paid tribute to the Chinese bishops' “communion with the universal church and their fidelity to the successor of the apostle Peter,” and assured them they were in the synod's prayers.

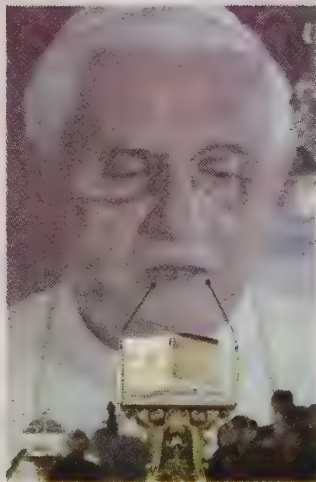
On Oct. 25, the last working day of the synod, the pope lunched with participants, joking that he had probably violated international human rights principles by making them work late into the night and on Sundays during the assembly.

“We'll have to see what can be done to improve this for the next synod,” he said.

Synod propositions

The synod's propositions, all of which were approved overwhelmingly, were presented to the pope along with an invitation to prepare a document on the topics raised during the assembly.

Proposition 17 asked that “the



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO DE MEIO, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI is shown reading the Bible in a live television feed projected inside the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Rome Oct. 5. The pope kicked off a Bible-reading marathon on Italian television. He read from the Book of Genesis in the Vatican, while other speakers read in the basilica.

ministry of lector be opened also to women, so that their role as proclaimers of the word may be recognized in the Christian community.” Women already act as Scripture readers, but cannot be installed officially in such a ministry, which is reserved to males.

It was unclear what the pope would do with the proposal, which would appear to require a derogation of canon law. Some Vatican sources said that, if approved, it would have to be emphasized that the ministry of lector arises from baptism and not from any connection to priestly ordination.

An issue that was the subject of four synod propositions was the need to strengthen the theological perspective in exegesis, or scriptural interpretation. Reflecting one of the pope's expressed concerns, it said the study of Scripture cannot be reduced simply to a historical analysis of biblical texts.

In its propositions, the synod identified several areas needing further study or guidance:

— Proposition 12 suggested that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith clarify “the concepts of the inspiration and the truth of the Bible” in order to make more understandable the Second Vatican Council's teaching on the question.

— Proposition 15 asked for a “homiletic directory” to help priests in preparing homilies. Such a directory would cover the principles of homiletics and the art of communication and would present biblical themes that recur in liturgical readings.

— Proposition 47 asked the Vatican to conduct a study on “the phenomenon of the sects,” citing deep concerns over their growing popularity in traditionally Catholic countries.

Often, it said, these sects attract followers by promising “an illusory happiness through the Bible, often interpreted in a fundamentalist way.”

— Proposition 16 asked for an examination of the Roman Lectionary, the book of Scripture readings for Mass, to see if “the current selection and

ordering of readings is truly adequate to the church's mission in this historical moment.”

In particular, it asked that the Old Testament receive greater attention in the lectionary.

On another liturgical question, the synod suggested that moments of silence be more universally adopted between the first and second readings at Mass and at the end of the homily.

It emphasized that scriptural readings never should be substituted with other “spiritual or literary texts,” which it said “can never attain the value and the richness contained in holy Scripture.”

The synod propositions thanked laypeople, in particular catechists and leaders of small communities, for their help in promoting scriptural understanding, especially in places where priests are absent.

But, sounding a note of liturgical caution, the synod also recommended the formulation of “ritual directories” to help ensure that where catechists lead Sunday services such celebrations “are not confused with the eucharistic liturgy.”

Religious freedom

The synod, reflecting an ongoing theme of the assembly, said the connection between Scripture and evangelization

needs to be better understood. It said the call to the Gospel must be “explicit, done not only inside our churches, but everywhere” and must be accompanied by the daily witness of the faith.

Missionary activity will often lead to persecution, the synod said. It appealed to civil authorities to respect and protect religious freedom.

On a basic point made by bishops from developing countries, Proposition 42 said many local communities lack Bibles translated into their own languages. It encouraged an effort to train translation specialists.

Proposition 53 dealt with dialogue with Muslims, but did not specifically mention scriptures. Instead, it insisted on “the importance of respect for life, the rights of men and women, and the distinction between the social-political order and the religious order in promoting justice and peace in the world.”

In a line added as an amendment, it said another important theme of Catholic-Muslim dialogue was “reciprocity and the freedom of conscience and of religion.”

Proposition 54 treated the theme of ecology, urging greater pastoral and theological emphasis on the connection between Scripture and current efforts to safeguard the created world.

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To obey and act

Synod message says each Catholic should own — and use — Bible

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of a series on the Bible.

VATICAN CITY — Devotion to the word of God must lead Catholics to prayer, concrete acts of charity, unity with other Christians and dialogue with all people of good will, said the world Synod of Bishops.

In their final message to the world's Catholics, the 253 members of the synod said each Catholic should have a copy of the Bible, read it and pray with it regularly.

"Every home should have its own Bible and safeguard it in a visible and dignified way, to read it and to pray with it," said the synod's message, released Oct. 24.

And, like Jesus who came to proclaim hope and salvation, "the Christian has the mission to announce this divine word of hope by sharing with the poor and the suffering, through the witness of faith in the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, and love and peace," the synod said.

"Authentic hearing is obeying and

acting. It means making justice and love blossom in life," the message said.

It is not enough to explain the word of God to others, the bishops said, but people must let others see and experience the goodness of God through the good that they do.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture and principal drafter of the message, told reporters that "if the word of God is love, then one who has read and prayed over the word must incarnate love. It must lead to communion, solidarity and dialogue."

Shared unity

Nearing the end of a synod that featured for the first time a major address by the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the bishops also insisted that "veneration and love for the word of God" is "the principle and source of a first and real unity" that Catholics share with other Christians.

"This bond must always be reinforced" through joint work on biblical translations, the distribution of Bibles, shared prayer, dialogue and



Pope Benedict XVI, center, and bishops from around the world attend the Synod of Bishops on the Bible at the Vatican Oct. 14.

study about differing approaches to interpretation and "the common witness of the word of God in a secularized world," the message said.

The bishops said the fact that Christians and Jews both recognize and love the Old Testament calls them to an "intense encounter" with each other.

In learning more about Judaism, Christians can learn more about Jesus and his disciples who were Jewish and can enrich their understanding of the Bible by studying Jewish traditions of interpretation, they said.

Because Muslims recognize biblical themes, figures and symbols and witness to faith "in the one, compassionate and merciful God, the creator of all beings and judge of humanity," Christians also are invited to dialogue with them, the synod said.

Buddhists' "respect for life, contemplation, silence, simplicity (and) renunciation," Hinduism's "sense of the sacred, sacrifice, pilgrimage, fasting and sacred symbols" and Confucianism's promotion of "wisdom and family and social values" also are fertile grounds for dialogue, the bishops said.

In their message, the bishops explained the various forms the word of God has taken: the spoken word that created the universe and can still be seen in nature; the Bible, the record of the history of salvation written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and Jesus Christ, the word made flesh.

"Therefore, the word of God precedes and goes beyond the Bible," the synod members said, so true devotion to the word of God excludes a fundamentalist reading of the Scriptures.

Fundamentalism "does not recognize that this word (of God) expresses itself in

the Bible according to a human language that must be decoded, studied and understood," said the synod message.

'Place of encounter'

Auxiliary Bishop Santiago Silva Retamales of Valparaiso, Chile, vice president of the synod's message-drafting committee, told reporters that the Bible's importance flows from the fact that it is "a place of encounter with the Word who is Lord."

"A book cannot listen, a book cannot console, a book cannot challenge, but the Lord does," he said.

Documenting the creation of man and woman, their struggles with sin and oppression, God's liberating action and his gift of salvation in Jesus, "the Bible contains the model for the process of liberation," Bishop Silva said.

In Latin America and many other parts of the world, he said, the poor come together to read the Bible, and they are touched by Jesus.

"They come aware of their dignity as men and women. They come to understand better and act on their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ," the bishop said.

"And, little by little, the conviction and enthusiasm of being Christian leads them to a new commitment in society, bringing to it the leaven of the values of the kingdom of God," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?
The synod message can be found online at www.vatican.va/news_services/press/sinodo/documents/bollettino_22_xii-ordinaria-2008/02_inglese/b34_02.html.



St. Matthew "YOU"niversity presents - From the Pope to St. Paul to our Priests - and now to YOU!

Pope Benedict XVI had three reasons for proclaiming 2008-2009 the year of St. Paul. He hopes to encourage a scholarly study of the Pauline corpus. He hopes this will lead to an increase of daily study of Paul, deep spiritual reflection on his life and writings, and an explosion of desire on the part of all of us to pattern ourselves after Paul, as Paul patterned himself after the Lord.

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Thursday, November 6
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The First Letter to the Corinthians
Fr. Patrick Toole
Read Fr. Ray Brown - pages 511-540
Thursday, January 8, 2009
Msgr. John J. McSweeney
The Letter to the Philippians
Thursday, February 5, 2009
Fr. Patrick Cahill
The Letter to the Romans
Thursday, March 5, 2009
Susan Brady
The Letter to the Galatians
Thursday, May 7, 2009
Fr. Patrick Toole
The Second Letter to the Corinthians

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

Culture Watch

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German publishing house to release complete works of pope

Pope Benedict XVI personally approves project, insists it carries his birth name

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Over the next eight years, the German publishing giant Herder and the Pope Benedict XVI Institute of Regensburg, Germany, will offer the public "The Complete Works of Joseph Ratzinger."

Presenting the first volume in the 16-tome series, Bishop Gerhard Muller of Regensburg told reporters Oct. 22 that Pope Benedict XIV personally approved the project and insisted that it carry his birth name.

Bishop Muller said the pope wants to make it clear that the works, almost all of which were completed before his election in 2005, reflect his personal theological thought and not the magisterial teaching of the church.

Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, director of the Vatican Publishing House, which controls the copyright of all the written work of the pope, including the writings in the series, said discussions already are under way with the U.S.-based Ignatius Press to publish English translations of the volumes.

The preface to the first published volume, dedicated to articles, lectures and homilies about the liturgy, is signed "Benedict XVI."

"When, after some hesitation, I decided to take on the project of the publication of my collected works, it was clear to me that the priorities of the (Second Vatican) Council were the most important, which is why liturgy had to be first," the pope wrote.

The liturgy volume includes his 2000 book, "The Spirit of the Liturgy."

In the volume's preface, Pope Benedict said that, unfortunately, the only thing most people know about the book is that it is the place where he discusses the direction the priest

faces during Mass.

"At a certain point, I had even thought of striking that chapter, which was nine pages in a 200-page work, so that what I really wanted to say would come out," he said in the preface.

Pope Benedict said that after his book came out in 2000, two other well-known works have appeared showing "that the idea of the priest and people facing each other is a modern invention. The priest and people do not pray to each other, but to God."

While he had written in 2000 that he did not think it was a good idea to remodel churches and place the main altars back against the wall, in the preface to the liturgy volume of his collected works he said was pleased with the solution of placing a crucifix in the middle of the altar "so that the priest and people look together toward the Lord."

"But," he wrote, "maybe once again I have gone on too long about what is only a detail" in a book meant to highlight the importance of the liturgy for the life and faith of the church.

Bishop Muller said each volume would include already published and well-known works along with homilies or lectures never previously published and a complete catalogue of references to other articles, homilies and letters by Joseph Ratzinger on the same subject.

The next volume, due out in March, contains the future pope's postdoctoral thesis on the doctrine of revelation in the works of St. Bonaventure, Bishop Muller said.

The only work originally published after Pope Benedict's election to be featured in the series, he said, will be the pope's 2007 book, "Jesus of Nazareth" and its anticipated second volume.

The large volume containing them will also include older material on the pope's views about Christology.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 9, 2008

*Nov. 9, Dedication of
Lateran Basilica in Rome*

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
Gospel: John 2:13-22

Bringing the Gospel to the public square

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A couple of weeks before the presidential election, I attended a lecture at a local college given by the acclaimed Catholic theologian and author Father Richard John Neuhaus.

He said it is imperative for Christians to bring Gospel values into the "public square."

Politics is the deliberation of how we as a society should order our lives, he explained, and morality — our understanding of right and wrong — necessarily is part of such deliberation and so should be part of the public conversation.

In the United States, a democratic society in which the culture holds the will of the people to be sovereign, he added, Christians contribute a deep sense of morality through their faith in the life and message of Jesus.

"You can't exclude people's convictions just because they are religious in nature," contended Father Neuhaus, who has written extensively on the role of religion in the contemporary world.

"We are bearers of the undisputed sovereignty of Jesus Christ," he stressed,

urging Christians to bring their beliefs to the political arena.

This weekend's Scriptures speak about human temptation to submit to worldly principles and Jesus' presence among us for the sake of saving the world from the powers of darkness.

In writing to the Corinthians, Paul reminded them, as Father Neuhaus reminded us, that we are bearers of Christ in our world. The foundation of the world was Jesus, Paul said, and so people must "be careful" how they build on that foundation.

We are called to infuse human society with the life in which it is founded.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that this does not work conversely. There is no place in the house of God for the tainted temporal values of the marketplace.

He promises that if we choose those values over him, society won't stand, and he will rebuild it according to his plan of love, justice and peace.

"The truth of Jesus Christ will be vindicated," Father Neuhaus said, reminding his audience of the minuscule part any one of us has in God's plan: "We can only hope that in our little moment we are faithful in keeping the truth."

Questions:

What values of our popular culture compete with Jesus' message in your own decision making? How can you personally bring the Gospel into the public square?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"You are God's ... building. ... But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:9-10-11).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 2-8

Sunday (All Souls), Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Monday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday (St. Charles Borromeo)**, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday**, Philippians 3:3-8, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday**, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday**, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 9-15

Sunday (The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome), Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; **Monday (St. Leo the Great)**, Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (St. Martin of Tours)**, Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday (St. Josaphat)**, Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Frances X. Cabrini)**, Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday**, 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Albert the Great)**, 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.



**Please pray for the
following priests who
died during the month
of November:**

Rev. Msgr. John P. Manley	1981
Rev. John J. Hyland	1975
Rev. John S. Regan	1976
Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan	1989

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THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS HERALD

Song and spirit

Catholic gospel music making a joyful noise unto the Lord

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — It may seem as if gospel music has been with us all our lives. But the genre didn't begin until Thomas Dorsey, widely regarded as the father of gospel music, changed his tune.

A blues pianist who once recorded the raunchy "Tight Like That," which sold an amazing 7 million copies, he dabbled in what were at the time called "evangelistic songs," getting two of them published in the Gospel Book, a publication of the National Baptist Convention, a predominantly African-American denomination.

Dorsey took credit for coining the term "gospel songs" — church music with a blues underpinning. His dabbling had become a mission by the time his first wife died in childbirth in 1932, after which he wrote the much-loved "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

Dorsey went on to write more than 300 songs, helping to create a genre that came to be known as gospel music.

Catholic gospel music didn't get started until a few decades later, thanks in part to the renewal and aggiornamento, or updating, of the church brought about by the Second Vatican Council, and moves toward enculturation and the use of the vernacular in the liturgy.

Msgr. Raymond East, director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington, traces the birth of Catholic gospel music to Father Clarence Joseph Rivers, an African-American priest who applied the principles he saw in the blossoming liturgical folk music scene of 40-plus years ago to his own experience.

"He was the first one to start publishing national resources, 'chronologuing' African-American culture and music and doing it from a scholarly basis," Msgr. East said.

"What was basically unique about

Father Clarence Rivers was that he was a composer and a musician. One of the first compositions I heard was his 'Mass of Brotherhood,'" the priest said.

"He had composed that, and it was a beautiful jazzlike liturgy, with all parts of the Mass (sung)," he said.

It took time to gain acceptance — Msgr. East said pastors of that time often declared that Catholic gospel music "wasn't traditional enough" or "not Christian" — but it started gaining footholds in large U.S. cities with large African-American populations.

Today, most parishes with a sizable African-American population are likely to have a gospel choir, although most people who hear and lead the groups say Catholic gospel music sounds different from its Protestant counterparts.

"Our theological beliefs are different. Roman Catholic use of the Lectionary and liturgical seasons maps out a specific plan that is cyclical in nature. Our emphasis on feast days and solemnities is a different experience from that of our Protestant sisters and brothers," said Meyer Chambers.

Chambers is director of the Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir and co-chair of the special interest section for African-American musicians in the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

"(Pope) Pius X said that music is the handmaid of the liturgy. In that role music has a place that serves several different needs," Chambers said.

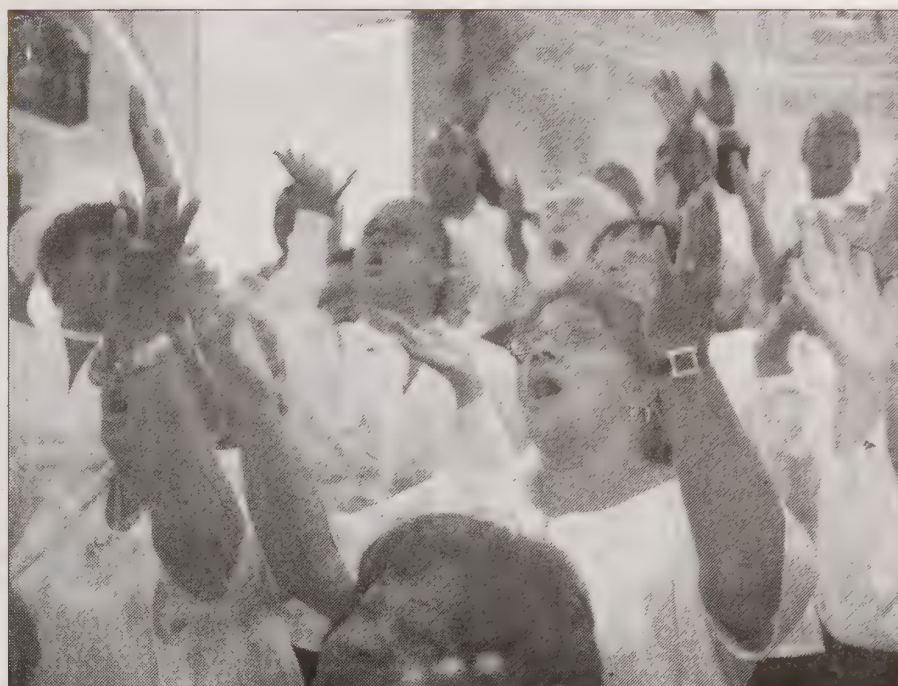
"Sometimes it is meant to accompany the ritual action. Sometimes it is meant to proclaim the psalm. Sometimes it is meant to stand alone," he said.

"While a number of choral functions overlap between Catholic and Protestant choirs, I think it's more accurate to say that their primary functions are different," said Chambers.

Conversion music

In some cases, because of a lack of Catholics skilled in gospel music, Protestants assume the roles of choir director and musicians.

"We embrace those people without training them in liturgy, so you end up with some odd musical selections at odd, inappropriate times," said Kevin Johnson, director of music at Our Lady



CNS PHOTO BY JIM WEST

Members of Metro Catholic Gospel Choir perform at St. Augustine-St. Monica Church in Detroit Aug. 22.

of Lourdes Church in Atlanta and at Spelman College, a historically black college in Atlanta.

But there are plenty of instances, according to Msgr. East, in which Protestants hired for liturgical ministry in Catholic parishes join the church.

"After they played in the Catholic Church for years ... after they witnessed the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) — another area that makes black Catholic gospel unique is the music for the rite, there was no regular Protestant gospel music for the rite — after you do (Easter) vigil after vigil and the rites, you start thinking, 'Maybe this Catholic thing is all right,'" Msgr. East said.

Rawn Harbor is one of them, although he says he considers himself "an exception, not the rule."

In 1979, after eight years of doing gospel music in Catholic churches, "I decided, 'I'm here every Sunday, every week, because I'm teaching in the Catholic school. Why not become Catholic?'"

Msgr. East said Catholic gospel music has served to build bridges between African-American Catholics and their Protestant counterparts, as well as serve as a tool for evangelization.

Dedicated directors

Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow, director of the gospel choir for St. Augustine-

St. Monica Church in Detroit and a participant in the Metro Catholic Gospel Choir, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, confessed that being the director is hard work.

"It's not easy dealing with choirs," said Gabriel-Burrow, 53, a lifelong Catholic whose pastor sent her to all sorts of workshops and conferences to learn more about liturgy.

She eventually co-edited the "Lead Me, Guide Me" hymnal, a near-mandatory resource for African-American Catholics for the past 21 years.

Chambers says he has gotten flak for accepting whites into his choirs. "My response has been simple: one faith, one church, one baptism. For the most part, what affects group dynamics is the personality of the individual," he said.

"One cannot do an authentic version of a gospel song and not expect some reaction to it which elongates that piece of music, and the reaction is longer than what is expected by liturgical classicists as normal," Harbor said.

Gabriel-Burrow likes to feature works by African-American composers because, she said, "if I don't do it, I don't know who else will."

Still, she added, "I do a mixture of music. I also do music that is sometimes traditional, I will do something that is by the (St. Louis) Jesuits. I will do something that is old, or ancient. It depends on what fits for the sermons of that day."

Low-budget film creates stir among Catholic marriage advocates

ROGERS, Ark. (CNS) — The film "Fireproof" is causing a stir in Catholic marriage advocacy groups around the country. The movie has become a hit around the country, grossing \$21.5 million, more than 40 times its budget.

"Fireproof" tells the story of a firefighter and his struggles to save his marriage. A book, "The Love Dare," which was originally a plot device in the film, was a No. 1 best-seller on The New York Times' paperback advice books list.

The Rev. Michael Catt is senior pastor at Sherwood Baptist Church in

Albany, Ga., and executive producer of the film.

"I think anything that can impact marriages is a positive thing," he said. "If we can save a million marriages this year, the ripple effect on children who will not be from broken homes, who will not be abused, who will not be growing up in homes where Mom and Dad are yelling and screaming, that will have an effect on our culture — it will have an effect on our churches."

On a related "Fireproof" Web site are links to Catholic marriage resources

such as the Archdiocese of Chicago Family Ministries, Retrouvaille, the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage.

Deacon Jack Weisenhorn of St. Michael Church in Gastonia is a founder and board member of First Things First of Gaston County, a nonprofit organization working to reduce divorces in the county. He helped promote the film's message by bringing couples — and firefighters — to a free screening in Gastonia in early October, compliments of the church and pastor, Father Roger Arnsparger.



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Faithful festivities



COURTESY PHOTO

A faith formation student at St. Mark Church in Huntersville paints a woman's nails during a fall festival at the church Oct. 24. The sixth annual festival, organized by the faith formation's Faith Rocks sixth- and seventh-grade program, included games, crafts, a pie eating contest and silent auction. The festival raised \$3,000, which was donated to Angels and Sparrows Soup Kitchen in Huntersville.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students and parents enjoy a ride during the annual Fun Fair at St. Michael School in Gastonia Oct. 11. Activities included a "Tiger Trot" race for children and adults, games, rides, food, a yard sale and a \$10,000 raffle.



COURTESY PHOTO

Left: Brigitte and Gretchen Nauck, students of St. Patrick School in Charlotte, greet Scooby-Doo during the school's fall festival Oct. 11.

Students, family and friends enjoyed rides, games and foods during the annual event.

The school also held its annual parent party Sept. 26 and open house Oct. 19 and 21.

Character reading



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Jane McDonald's first-grade class at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro is pictured in costume during the class "readers' theater" Oct. 8. The students read a script adapted from the book, "Way Far Away on a Wild Safari," to their eighth-grade "big buddies" in the audience. The big buddies helped the first-graders create headbands of the various animals portrayed in the story.

IT PROJECT COORDINATOR DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE -- CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES



Catholic Social Services is seeking an IT Project Coordinator to develop, support, and maintain a client management information system. Must be able to communicate effectively both orally and written. A degree in Information Systems, Computer Science, MIS or equivalent education and experience required. E-mail Lmfranks@charlottediocese.org for a complete job description or to submit your resume. Resumes must be submitted by November 7, 2008.

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Cycling Scouts



COURTESY PHOTO
Members of Cub Scout Pack 244 and their families from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro are pictured before the third annual Tour de Guilford 10-mile bike ride Sept. 29. Scout leaders pictured are David Thompson, David Phlegar and Jim Duffy.

Helping hands



COURTESY PHOTO
Fourth-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured Oct. 22 with items they collected to be donated to residents of a women's shelter in Winston-Salem. The project was part of the school's Helping Hands of Mercy program. The students filled 110 bags with shampoo, soap, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes and cosmetic items for women and children at the shelter. The school will soon be working on its second Helping Hands of Mercy project — a coat drive for needy children.

CROP walking



COURTESY PHOTO
Youth group members from St. Ann Church in Charlotte take part in the 2008 Charlotte CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk Oct. 12.

Approximately 10,000 people participated in the annual walk, the nation's largest CROP Walk for 20 consecutive years, which is organized by Church World Services and raises money to help Loaves & Fishes, Crisis Assistance Ministry and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. These organizations fight hunger in the Charlotte area while supporting the humanitarian efforts of Church World Services around the globe.

St. Ann Church's youth group raised about \$325.



COURTESY PHOTO
Faith formation students and parishioners of St. William Church in Murphy are pictured before Cherokee County's 2008 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk Oct. 26. The group raised more than \$700 for Church World Services to fight hunger locally and globally.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Faithfully departed

All Souls Day a time to remember, honor those who are gone

On Nov. 2, we celebrate the feast of All Souls, a day the Catholic Church has reserved for those who have gone before us — the faithfully departed. It is an excellent opportunity for us to pause and reflect on our lives in the light of our deceased relatives and friends. This is the best way we can honor their memories.

There are two people who are special to me on this day of remembrance. When they were alive, they were always praying, preached by example and were certainly ready to die when they were called by God.

One was a monk and great friend of mine. The other one was my older sister. The monk died suddenly at age 31. My sister died slowly and painfully of breast cancer at age 64.

Even though their states of life and cultural upbringings were different, there were common threads in the spirituality of my friend, Brother Anthony, and my sister, Vicky.

Brother Anthony lived his religious vocation as a Benedictine monk in Latrobe, Pa. He had a joyful disposition, but didn't have any unspoken thoughts.

Although he had only been a monk for less than two years, he wasn't afraid to call other "brothers" — religious or seminarians — to correction. This made him very unpopular in his community, but he always said, "I'd rather tell the truth in charity than be popular."

My sister never married and lived her single vocation in Panama City, Panama. Vicky struggled with mental illness most of her adult life, and she became my mother's companion for close to 20 years after my dad died in 1988.

Both my sister and Brother Anthony had a very Catholic spirituality, and if you didn't know them well enough, you could almost say they wore their Catholicism on their sleeves. Both of them loved to pray the rosary, and both went to daily Mass.

Vicky had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and used to call herself "Victoria de Dios" (Victory of God). Brother Anthony loved the eucharistic Jesus and made daily holy hours.

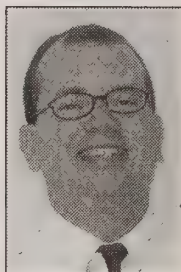
When my sister died in March 2006, she had already embraced her long suffering of almost two years and knew that a great crown was waiting for her on the other side. Vicky was truly a beacon of God's light to those around her, from the terminally-ill to the cancer-free.

Brother Anthony loved to wear his Benedictine habit — he recognized it as a sign of our baptismal consecration to Jesus Christ.

In the eyes of those around him, including me, Brother Anthony was a healthy man. We used to run three to

Guest Column

RICO DE SILVA
GUEST COLUMNIST



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

four miles regularly and he was the fittest monk I've ever known.

Yet one Wednesday evening in October 2000, during his religious community's weekly meeting while discussing the topic of simplicity, he stood up and quoted Pope John Paul II, saying, "The Holy Father said that we should wear our habits always as a sign of simplicity."

Then he sat down and had a heart aneurysm. He died instantaneously, fitting for a man who believed "we have to be ready to pray, preach and die at all times."

Brother Anthony and Vicky were beautiful souls, and I feel blessed that I was able to share my life with them. In times of trouble, I often reflect on their lives to keep me centered in Christ.

I am sure there are loved ones in your life that are now gone, but not forgotten. Renew the meaning to All Souls Day this coming Sunday, Nov. 2, and honor their memories by being ready to pray, preach and die at any time.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine unto them. And may the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

De Silva is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

The most precious of angels

Examining choice, from a victim's point of view

Editor's note: A version of this column first ran Oct. 6, 2006.

"Hello again," said the Child with a smile.

"Hello, little one," said the Voice. "My, you've gotten a lot bigger since I saw you last."

"I can suck my thumb now," beamed the Child. "See?"

"My, that's wonderful," said the Voice.

"I hear other voices," said the Child, "but I don't recognize them."

"You hear your mother talking with the doctor," said the Voice. "They are talking about you."

"My mother doesn't speak to me much anymore," sighed the Child. "I'm glad you visit with me. It's always brighter when you do. Sir, are you my father?"

"I am not your biological father, but I am your heavenly father," replied the Voice. "And I am always with you."

"Who is that man in the corner, the man with the horns?" asked the Child. "He scares me."

"Do not worry about him."

"You seem sad today, Father," said the Child. "What's the matter?"

"I'm sorry, little one," said the Voice. "I so looked forward to seeing you born, to watching you grow up. You were going to live near the water and break a national swimming record. You were going to dance with a boy at your prom, fall in love and marry him. You were going to raise precious children of your own. You were going to work with sick people and help them feel better. But now ... that is not going to happen."

"Why not?" asked the Child.

"Because, little one, your mother made a choice."

"I don't understand," said the Child. "I want to be born. I want to grow up and do all those things."

"I know you do. And you would have been amazing at them."

"Why is my mother doing this?" asked the Child. "Does she not love me?"

"She does not know you," replied the Voice. "She has been corrupted by the lies of that man with the horns. He has won another victory today."

"What is happening, Father?" asked the Child. "I don't feel well. Something is wrong."

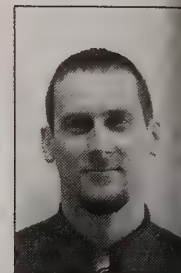
"Look at me, little one. Focus on me. Do you hear the music?"

"Yes, I hear it."

"That is the chorus of my kingdom, where my angels sing and dance on the clouds," said the Voice. "Listen to

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR



the music."

"I'm trying, but I feel pain! It hurts Father!" cried the Child. "Am I dying? I don't want to die! I want to be born! I want to grow up! Please, Father!"

"I am sorry, little one," said the Voice. "I am so sorry."

"Father ... don't leave me"

"Never."

Darkness overcame the Child. The chorus of heaven fell silent. And the man with the horns smiled.

"What ... what happened?" asked the Child.

"Hello again, little one," said the Voice.

The Child looked around. "I can hear the music again! Is that where we are going?"

"Yes. I am taking you to my kingdom."

"I can see it! It's so beautiful! And I can see your angels dancing on the clouds!" said the Child.

"They are celebrating to welcome you home," said the Voice.

The Child paused, looking back. "I am going to miss her — my mother."

"You will see her again one day," said the Voice.

"Father, is there any way I can help her, and other mothers, to make the right choice?"

"That's a big task," said the Voice. "Let's work on that together."

The Child beamed. "Thank you, Father. But first — I want to dance on the clouds with the angels!"

"Of course, little one, but," said the Voice, holding out his hand, "may I have the first dance?"

As this Respect Life Month ends, let us remember:

— "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I dedicated you." (Jer 1:5)

— "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret intricately wrought in the depths of the earth." (Ps 139:15)

— "You shall not kill." (Fifth Commandment)

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

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Vote your true conscience

What would God want us to do in this situation?

When I hear all the promises made by the political candidates, promises Americans will never be able to pay for, wonder if we are not being charmed out of our common sense.

Our dilemma reminds me of the story about a man who died and stood before St. Peter.

Peter said, "You now have a final choice, you can choose heaven or hell. It's up to you."

"Take this elevator and go down to hell; see if you like it. Then compare it to heaven before you make your choice."

The man was eager to see what hell was like, but to his surprise, when the elevator door to hell opened he saw a wonderful party going on with men and women drinking and dancing and having good time. He also saw dozens of his friends.

He went back to St. Peter, who next opened the door to heaven for him to glimpse. He saw a green field with a few people sitting around, apparently doing nothing. It seemed very boring.

Finally Peter said, "Now you must choose."

The man hesitated at first, and then said, "I saw many of my friends in hell having a good time. I think I'd like to be with them."

In a flash he was sent down to hell. But when the elevator opened, to his shock and horror, all he saw was a filthy garbage dump with people dressed in rags digging for food.

He protested, saying, "This isn't the place I was first shown!"

But Satan laughed at him, saying, "Yesterday we were campaigning for your vote; today you see reality."

Universal health care will cost over a trillion dollars and a government grant for the college education of every student will cost billions more. Buying up mortgages of those in or near default will add more to the bill.

All this is supposed to cost U.S. taxpayers nothing; in fact, we are told we will get a tax cut. You do the math.

What will we see in January when reality settles in?

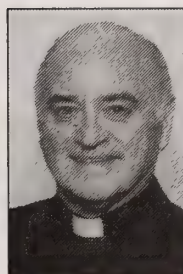
I see millions of Christians disregarding the abortion issue as they make up their minds. It's true, elections are not about one issue, but they are supposed to be about truth and integrity.

Vote for whomever you want, but be aware that you may be being duped.

I think the stakes are extremely high in this election. If you are in doubt about who to vote for, ask yourself, "What would God want me to do in this situation?"

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



God gives everyone the freedom to accept or reject Jesus Christ as Lord. Accepting him is the beginning of wisdom. Christians through the ages know that Jesus wants us to take his words seriously.

Remember too that belief in Jesus is primarily an act of the will. We accept him as our personal savior, doing whatever he tells us.

The believer also trusts that Jesus is telling the truth. His authority assures us that there is a supernatural order, which we are to make visible in this world.

The Bible is not a collection of opinions; it is a spiritual storehouse of ancient wisdom. When interpreted correctly, the Bible teaches us who we are, why we are here and where we are going.

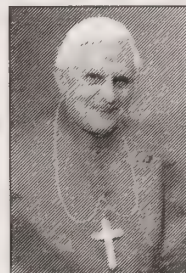
In this election, I recommend that you vote for the truth as you see it. In the process, accept Jesus as the magnificent centerpiece of divine revelation.

Jesus calls us to "love one another" (Jn 13:34), especially the weakest among us.

Jesus' death on cross expresses power of God's love, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God's Son dying on the cross may appear to signal a scandalous victory of pain and death but, for Christians, the cross expresses "the power of God's limitless love," Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his Oct. 29 general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict spoke about St. Paul's teachings on the meaning of the cross.

After St. Paul's conversion, the apostle realized Jesus had died and risen for him and for every person in the world, the pope said. Therefore, the cross revealed the power of God's merciful and saving love that he freely gives to all people, he said.

Once a sinner and persecutor of Christians, St. Paul saw that his new life and salvation were a gift, a grace from God "that stemmed from the death of Christ and not from his own merits" or virtuous acts, the pope said.

Rather than death or failure, the cross signifies "salvation given to every creature," he said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider the central place of the cross of Jesus Christ in his preaching.

Paul's encounter with the glorified Lord on the way to Damascus convinced him that Jesus had died and risen for him and for all. The mystery of the cross showed him the power of God's merciful and saving love.

As Paul told the Corinthians, he came not to preach in lofty words or wisdom, but to proclaim "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (cf. I Cor 2:2).

The cross, which seems a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, is the revelation of God's wisdom and strength. As the supreme sign of God's love for sinful humanity, the cross invites us to that true wisdom which accepts the free gift of God's merciful and saving love.

On the cross, Christ gave himself up for our sins (cf. Gal 1:4), becoming a sacrifice of atonement in his own blood (cf. Rom 3:25).

For Paul, faith in the crucified Lord thus calls us to crucify our own flesh with its desires, in order to share in Christ's death and resurrection (cf. Gal 5:24).

In accepting the weakness of the cross, we experience the power of God's love for us.

An immigration story — before the U.S. built a wall on its border with Mexico

U.S. bishops advocate reform for dignity, rights of immigrants

This incident happened years ago, when immigration matters were all handled by the Immigration and Naturalization Services (now divided into other agencies in the Department of Homeland Security).

It was before we started building a wall on our border with Mexico. It was before our own economic downturn and the United States started slowing migration.

My brother was an executive in the meatpacking industry, and he told me about an INS raid on another company's plant. It was in a small town and many undocumented workers were found working inside the plant.

The workers without papers were ceremoniously loaded onto buses and right then and there hauled several hundred miles from the Midwest across the Mexican border and deposited in our southern neighbor's territory.

It wasn't a particularly unusual occurrence for those days.

What was interesting to my brother was the story of one particular woman who was loaded onto the bus and hauled away. Within a week, she was back in that same small Midwestern town.

Having slipped across the border back into the United States, she traveled the way through several states to the place she had left. Why? Because when they dragged her onto the bus, she left a

child behind in the town. She had come back to reclaim him.

That story may leave you with several thoughts, depending on your views of immigration.

The story reminded me of mothers everywhere. It resonated with me, a mom who would fight tooth and nail if I was torn from one of my babes. I felt tremendous empathy for that woman and anger at a system that could be so cruel and so unjust.

Unjust? But wasn't she breaking the law? Yes, but so was the company that profited from the hard work of those eager employees, those hungry folk who are willing to work for a little less than the average American so that they can get the foothold we take for granted.

In our current economic turmoil, Americans don't want to see the "fat cats" on Wall Street making a fortune after turning the system upside down. Likewise, I want to see employers held accountable for breaking the law.

Our borders aren't so porous anymore. We have more enforcement and rather than trying to solve the economic problems on both sides of the borders, we're building a fence to separate us from our southern sisters and brothers.

And even though immigration hasn't been a big issue thus far in the presidential campaign, it's still an issue, and because so many immigrants are

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



Catholics, it should be a special concern of ours.

The U.S. bishops have advocated reform that will provide for broad-based, earned legalization for undocumented persons.

They've asked for reform of our family-based immigration system to reunite folks with loved ones in the United States.

They've encouraged reform of the system to provide legal pathways for migrants to work in a safe environment, for dignity for laborers and for due process protections for immigrants.

They've urged the U.S. government to work with other governments to address the conditions that compel people to migrate.

For a good look at Catholic proposals for immigration reform, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

In 1986 Pope John Paul II said this: "The church repeats with insistence that ... the protection of families, and particularly of those burdened by further difficulties of being migrants and refugees, constitutes an indispensable priority. ... 'What God has joined together, let no one separate' sounds like an implicit condemnation for a society that grants economic advantage to the detriment of moral values."

Options for Dismissal

The Vatican has approved three new options for the dismissal at Mass. A presider may choose among these endings:

- 1 "The Mass is ended, go in peace."
- 2 "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."
- 3 "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."
- 4 "Go in peace."

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February 4 - 12, 2009



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- * thrill to the beautiful wildlife in one of the world's largest **butterfly gardens** — unbelievable colors and varieties right there with you!
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- * relax on the spectacular northwest Pacific coast — the **all-inclusive, tropical paradise resort** with breathtaking beaches and nearby marina awaits you, surrounded by expansive ocean views and lush greenery!

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Price includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte; air taxes, fees, surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full); hotels; transfers; most meals; full-time tour manager; local guides. Cancellation waiver/insurance (\$150 per person) is not included.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 — or e-mail ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

New dismissal options at Mass meant to help people live the Gospel

U.S. Catholics unlikely to hear new forms until 2012 or later

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The new options for dismissal at Mass are meant to help worshippers connect the liturgy with the missionary call of the rest of their lives, explained a liturgist with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

Chosen by Pope Benedict XVI himself, the closings were created to help the faithful see that the "transformation that takes place in the Eucharist ... ultimately helps to transform us as those who receive the Eucharist," said Father Richard Hilgartner, associate director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship.

However, U.S. Catholics are unlikely to hear the new forms of dismissal at Mass until 2012 or later, when the new English translation of the Roman Missal is introduced.

Father Hilgartner said the new options are meant to reflect "several transformations" that occur during the Mass.

"The bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, and as the faithful share in the body and blood of Christ the prayer is that we become more the body of Christ, which has to do with how we live," he said.

The options were outlined by Cardinal Francis Arinze of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments at the Vatican, in an interview published in the Oct. 17 issue of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Along with "Ite, missa est," the Latin phrase now translated as "The Mass is ended, go in peace," he said the new options are:

— "Ite ad Evangelium Domini annuntiandum" (Go and announce the

Gospel of the Lord).

— "Ite in pace, glorificando vitam vestram Dominum" (Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life).

— "Ite in pace" (Go in peace).

"It's our understanding that the Holy Father had a desire to find ways to express more clearly the connection between what's celebrated in the liturgy and how the faithful live their lives beyond liturgy, that movement from the altar to the world," Father Hilgartner said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

The closing options will be included in the new English-language translation of the main constant parts of the Mass, which was approved, or given "recognitio," by the Vatican in July.

The new dismissals will be part of the revised Roman Missal, which will include modified interpretations of many of the common acclamations and prayers.

The U.S. bishops will take up the second of the 10 sections into which the Roman Missal has been divided at their fall general meeting Nov. 10-13 in Baltimore.

The 700-page section failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority for approval after several long discussions during the bishops' June meeting and subsequent mail ballot.

The second section governs the translation of proper prayers for Sunday and feast days during the liturgical year.

Father Hilgartner said if the process stays on schedule the bishops are expected to approve all 10 sections by the end of 2010. Each section also must be confirmed by the Vatican.

Once approved, he said, it will likely be another year before the changes make their way into the liturgy in order for the necessary catechesis to take place in dioceses and the revised missals to be printed and distributed.

Mass dismissals among suggestions being considered at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has prepared three alternative endings for the priest's words of dismissal at Mass, to emphasize the missionary spirit of the liturgy.

Pope Benedict XVI personally chose the three options from suggestions presented to him after a two-year study, said Cardinal Francis Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The congregation still was studying another suggestion made during the 2005 Synod of Bishops, that of moving the sign of peace to a different part of the Mass.

In 2005, the pope said the sign of peace had great value, but should be done with "restraint" so that it does not become a distraction during Mass. He asked for the study on moving the sign of peace from a moment just before Communion to another time in the liturgy.

Cardinal Arinze said that, after consultation, the congregation had written to bishops' conferences asking their preference between leaving the sign of peace where it is now and moving it to

an earlier moment, after the prayer of the faithful. Responses were expected to be in by the end of October, and the question would then be presented to the pope for a final decision.

Cardinal Arinze said a third suggestion from the 2005 synod, "eucharistic compendium," also has made progress and is near publication. It would include doctrinal notes on the Mass, as well as prayer texts, passages of papal liturgical teachings, canon law tracts and other explanatory material. He emphasized that the compendium would propose ideas, not impose them.

A fourth project of the working congregation, working together with Vatican congregations for doctrine and clergy, was the drawing up of a list of homily themes that correspond to Sunday scriptural readings and to the church's doctrinal teachings.

"This is not a matter of modifying homilies, but general indications which, for each theme, elements are furnished to be able to develop the theme," he said.

Colossians 1: 28



October 2008



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"It is Christ Whom We Proclaim" is an appropriate theme for this year's annual report. The words were written by St. Paul in Colossians. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has proclaimed this the Pauline year to mark the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. With all of that in mind, I am pleased to present to you the annual report of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 2008.

This report will show you that, once again, the Diocese of Charlotte is sound — both spiritually and financially. I would like to thank the people of God in western North Carolina, who are committed to the diocese through prayer, service and ongoing financial support. It is through this generosity and dedication that we continue to proclaim Christ.

Proclaiming Christ is evident in our diocese every day. Our fourth Eucharistic Congress took place in early October. I am grateful to the thousands of people who processed in prayer through the streets of uptown Charlotte with the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic life.

Our continued success is aided by prayer and the commitment and hard work of the many priests, deacons and religious who serve the diocese in our 92 parishes and missions, our schools and our social service agencies. During this past year I had the honor of ordaining two men to the priesthood. Father Brad Jones and Father Tri Vinh Truong will guide the faithful and celebrate the sacraments for many years to come.

Faith formation programs throughout the 46 counties of our diocese continue to grow. Approximately 42,500 children and adults participate in parish-based religious education programs. In addition, our 18 diocesan and parish-based schools provide kindergarten through 12th-grade instruction for 7,829 children. In one of those schools, St. Ann in Charlotte, a new program meets the needs of children with special learning needs in grades two-five. It is very gratifying to know that these children will receive their education in a Christ-centered setting.

The people of Catholic Social Services continue to proclaim Christ through action as they provide caring help to thousands of individuals and families in need. In particular, during the past year the international adoption services of CSS received Hague accreditation. This certification means that CSS continues to conform to the highest international standards to ensure that inter-country adoptions are in the best interests of children.

With the blessing of our Lord we will continue to proclaim Christ each day as we work together to build up the Kingdom of God in our diocese. I know we can accomplish this with the blessing of your prayers and your continued financial support. Thank you for generosity, in your weekly offertory giving and the Diocesan Support Appeal as well as the many other needs that are met through your kindness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, JCD
Bishop of Charlotte

June 29, 2008

June 29, 2009

**The Pauline Year
as proclaimed by
His Holiness
Pope Benedict XVI**



**It is Christ whom we proclaim,
Admonishing everyone and teaching
everyone with all wisdom,
That we may present everyone
perfect in Christ.**

**For this I labor and struggle,
In accord with the exercise of his
power working within me.**

Colossians 13: 28-29

**Every day, Christ is proclaimed in
the Diocese of Charlotte in
93 parishes and missions by
130 diocesan and religious priests,
31 retired priests,
108 deacons, and
123 religious sisters and brothers
with more than
400,000 Catholics**

It is Christ who is proclaimed throughout the Diocese of Charlotte in our churches, our schools, our ministries in all that we do, with all whom we serve. It is in the name of Christ, our Lord and Savior, that we serve his Catholic Church and his holy people.



Vocations, Clergy, Religious Life

Proclaiming Christ through ministry and vocation

On June 7, 2008, two men formally dedicated their lives to proclaiming Christ by answering his call to serve as priests. Father Brandon Jones and Father Tri Vinh Truong were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"Your being is changed by this powerful grace, making you a sacrament of Christ the high priest, capable of acting in the person of Christ," Bishop Jugis told them during the ordination Mass.

That day, the new priests each received the Gospel of Christ from the bishop and promised to boldly proclaim it both in word and deed.

"By your teaching, sanctifying and shepherding in the name of Christ, the Lord will work through your ministry to produce the fruit of salvation in the people you serve — the fruit which remains unto eternal life," said Bishop Jugis.

With the ordination of Fathers Jones and Truong, a total of 38 men have been ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte over the past decade.

Currently, 78 diocesan priests and 52 religious order priests proclaim Christ to the faithful of the diocese's parishes and missions. Alongside of them are many of the 31 retired priests who generously still minister to others in churches, schools, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes.

"I think the most enriching ministry of the priesthood is the ministry to the sick and suffering — working with the people especially when suffering by (approaching) death," said Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired diocesan priest who celebrated 55 years as a priest in June 2008.

The diocese's 108 permanent deacons help proclaim the message of Christ to people from all walks of life in churches and agencies, airport and hospital chapels, and prisons throughout western North Carolina.

"By exercising his ministry with love, patience and understanding, the deacon shows a heart that has been given over to the Lord," said Bishop Jugis, who celebrated the permanent deacons' annual recommitment Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 1, 2008.

Currently, there are 113 women religious representing 19 orders proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in churches, schools, hospitals and ministries throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

OFFICE OF WOMEN
RELIGIOUS

SEMINARIAN FORMATION

CLERGY CONTINUING
CARE

SUPPORT OF
RETIRED PRIESTS

OFFICE OF PERMANENT
DIACONATE

VOCATIONS, CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	\$3,142,749	\$3,175,778	EXPENSES	\$3,142,749	\$3,175,778
CONTRIBUTIONS			SEMINARIAN FORMATION	525,196	631,525
PRIESTS' RETIREMENT COLLECTION	818,454	680,596	PRIESTS' RETIREMENT BENEFITS	1,991,161	1,976,082
SEMINARIAN COLLECTION	203,575	193,642	OTHER	626,392	568,171
FRIENDS OF SEMINARIAN PROGRAM	216,663	216,049			
OTHER	17,243	206,252			
PARISH ASSESSMENTS	548,241	590,549			
GRANTS	13,675	13,675			
DSA FUNDING	272,726	220,240			
ADMINISTRATION FUNDING	1,052,172	1,054,775			

It is through the lives and examples of these men and women that countless people both Catholic and non-Catholic come to know and see the love of Christ in action. And it is through ongoing education that the faithful develop an even deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ.

EDUCATION
FORMATION OFFICES:
OFFICE OF THE VICAR
CAMPUS MINISTRY
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
EVANGELIZATION /
MINISTRY FORMATION
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE
MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

Education

Proclaiming Christ by teaching the faithful

The ultimate purpose of the diocesan Education Vicariate is to proclaim Christ and assist maturing believers in their relationships with him. As such, the educational ministries of the diocese are concerned not simply with sharing information, but with formation.



EDUCATION FORMATION OFFICES OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	\$ 1,794,761	\$ 1,694,173	EXPENSES	\$ 1,794,761	\$ 1,694,173
<i>(INCLUDES DSA FUNDING OF \$1,416,296 IN 2008 AND \$1,267,713 IN 2007)</i>					

DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
REVENUE	\$ 39,786,694	\$ 38,028,615	EXPENSES	\$ 36,728,604	\$ 34,420,241
TUITION AND FEES	34,174,827	32,046,355	INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL	18,663,166	16,790,228
PARISH SUPPORT	2,727,512	2,658,132	OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS	2,177,758	2,159,189
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS	2,035,067	1,904,522	FACILITIES	6,106,500	6,079,709
CHANGE IN VALUE OF			ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL	2,359,670	2,300,076
INTEREST RATE SWAP	(478,463)	(151,055)	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	3,412,612	3,179,556
INCOME FROM RENTAL PROPERTY	679,710	532,771	INTEREST	1,343,921	1,488,812
OTHER	648,041	1,037,890	OTHER	2,664,977	2,422,671

One approach in the diocese to fulfill the privileged responsibility of proclaiming Christ is through the “Why Catholic?” program, which was introduced in the Diocese of Charlotte in 2007.

“Why Catholic?” is a program of RENEW International, a Roman Catholic organization that fosters spiritual renewal, evangelization and the transformation of the world through parish-based small Christian communities.

“The ‘Why Catholic?’ program will help all of us understand better the teachings of our Catholic faith,” said Bishop Jugis.

“Catechesis is tied to evangelization. If we are strongly rooted in our faith, then we will be more effective in bringing Christ’s teachings into the public arena where we can have an impact on the important moral issues facing society,” said the bishop, who has endorsed the program in the diocese.

DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS:

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL
SAINT ANN SCHOOL
SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL
SAINT MARK SCHOOL
SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL
SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
BISHOP MCGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Currently, more than 6,000 people in 30 parishes and missions in the diocese participate in the program.

“On numerous occasions in parish work, I have encountered adults who feel inadequately prepared to defend or discuss their faith,” said Father John Putnam, judicial vicar of the diocese and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

“‘Why Catholic?’ actually provides a means to begin addressing the problem. Anything that we pastors can do to assist our people to embrace their faith more completely is certainly worth exploring,” he said.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR:

ENROLLED IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: 7,829

PARTICIPATING IN PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS: 42,532

And assisting and embracing all people in need, especially those with critical human needs, with the love of Christ is core to Catholic Social Services’ outreach.

Catholic Social Services

Proclaiming Christ by serving people in need

The New Testament reveals how Jesus created a community that gathers for the Eucharist and then disperses to love all and care for those in need. In the 21st century, Pope Benedict XVI writes in his first encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is Love") that "as a community, the church must practice love. Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community."

Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Diocese of Charlotte is such an organized charity that touches the lives of many people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, in and beyond western North Carolina. Last year, more than 16,300 people utilized CSS's broad range of services — marriage preparation courses and natural family planning instruction; pregnancy support; elder ministry; counseling, adoption and immigration services; refugee resettlement; burial assistance; and peer support groups for youths.

When, through CSS, food is provided to the hungry, assistance is rendered to individuals in crisis and loving families are matched with adoptive children, it is truly Christ's love that is proclaimed.

Michael and Jennifer Kellam of Waxhaw are able to share that love with Andrew, whom they adopted from a Russian orphanage through CSS's international adoption program.

In 2007, CSS was among the first eight agencies worldwide to be accredited by the Russian Federation, and is the only Catholic agency in the United States with a direct placement program in Russia. CSS staff assist adoptive parents in all phases of the process.

"We felt free to call the staff anytime. There was always someone available to talk with us," said Jennifer Kellam. "CSS was very upfront and efficient and made the whole process as smooth as possible."

JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE
FAMILY LIFE OFFICE
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
OFFICE
CHARLOTTE REGIONAL OFFICE
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL
OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	\$5,531,242	\$5,471,710	EXPENSES	\$5,550,960	\$5,431,861
FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCY AWARDS	1,691,431	1,743,962	ADOPTION PROGRAM	607,736	597,689
OTHER GRANTS, CONTRACTS & AWARDS	400,909	476,170	COUNSELING PROGRAM	482,482	397,214
CONTRIBUTIONS - DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE:			DIRECT ASSISTANCE	189,986	141,941
DSA FUNDING	1,498,486	1,450,447	HAND TO HAND & YESS PROGRAMS	295,624	275,323
OTHER SUPPORT	18,051	5,379	HISPANIC SERVICES	521,129	479,979
CONTRIBUTIONS - OTHER	1,211,629	1,114,076	HOST HOMES PROGRAM	189,424	184,541
FEES	734,820	549,080	LATINO FAMILY CENTER	163,961	147,965
OTHER	(24,084)	132,596	NEW HORIZONS PROGRAM	-	201,281
			OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	173,919	129,434
			REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT	1,425,517	1,424,075
			OTHER PROGRAMS	328,610	367,672
			ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,010,907	927,825
			FUNDRAISING EXPENSES AND DIRECT BENEFITS TO DONORS	161,665	156,922

Professional, knowledgeable and compassionate are the qualities that allow those who work in CSS, and all the ministries of the Diocese of Charlotte, to proclaim Christ to those they serve.

Human Capital

Proclaiming Christ by working together

Just as priests, deacons and men and women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte proclaim Christ through their ministries, so too do the laity who serve throughout the diocese in various capacities — as teachers, catechists, counselors, custodians and musicians.

In their deeds and words, the many dedicated employees and volunteers in the Diocese of Charlotte represent Christ's work on earth through their ministries in churches, schools and agencies. They bring to their work a multitude of backgrounds, cultures, experiences and talents.



In support of these individuals, the Diocese of Charlotte has established policies and procedures that ensure compliance with diocesan regulations and state and federal employment laws. The diocesan Human Resources Office educates, advises and assists parishes, missions, schools and offices in all areas of personnel administration.

The employee benefit programs offered by the diocese provide protection and support for employees and their families.

The costs of employee benefit programs for all diocesan entities were as follows:

	2008	2007
LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 105,195	\$ 96,651
HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 4,573,970	\$ 3,505,099
LAY PENSION PLAN	\$ 1,752,133	\$ 1,913,642
403(B) PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 625,334	\$ 580,388

Through the continuing, dedicated efforts of all who serve and minister within the diocese, Christ's message will continue to be proclaimed in and beyond western North Carolina.

And because of the continuing commitment and generosity of the faithful in the diocese, the Catholic Church in North Carolina will continue to flourish and prosper long into the future.

The Foundation

Proclaiming Christ by providing for the future

People across the diocese are helping provide for the future needs of the Catholic Church they love. Through endowments with the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, these generous parishioners are helping provide long-term financial stability for the church, its needs and mission of proclaiming Christ.

"It is a way of living out another aspect of stewardship that allows individuals to leave legacies to what they value in life," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan foundation and development office.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its churches, schools, agencies and organizations. Endowments are permanent funds that earn income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the person's estate plan or in an endowment agreement.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE EMPLOYEES:

FULL-TIME: 920

PART-TIME: 1,322

Established in 1994 with two endowments, the foundation currently has 168 endowments, including 13 endowments established this past fiscal year. Principal additions to endowments for the year totaled \$955,314; distributions for the year totaled \$422,110.

Income from four of these endowments provided \$60,200 in 22 separate grants awarded by the foundation to help support programs for the poor, minority communities and evangelical initiatives. Thirteen of these grants funded parish programs supporting these initiatives. The remaining nine grants funded CSS programs as well as other outreach programs in the diocese also in support of these initiatives.

Two of the newly-created endowments were established through bequests from individuals who chose to include the church in their final estate plans.

One of these endowments is the St. Joseph Endowment Fund for Needy Parishes. Established by a diocesan priest, the endowment directly benefits needy parishes in the diocese. As with all the endowments, anyone can add to this particular fund with a gift of any size.

“Any kind of gift, when multiplied by many people or parishioners, will make the school very strong,” said Catherine Lassiter, who, with her husband Reynolds, established an endowment for St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, where their children attend.

Through their generosity, the Lassiters are among the 850 members of the diocesan Catholic Heritage Society — those who plan to remember the church in their estate.

“We are grateful for these individuals from all walks of life who are ensuring the future of the church and our theme of ‘It is Christ Whom We Proclaim,’” said Kelley.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
ASSETS	\$17,910,270	\$17,703,169	LIABILITIES	\$8,425,280	\$8,819,352
CASH	684,384	342,118	PAYABLES & UNEARNED INCOME	51,633	122,453
RECEIVABLES & PREPAIDS	643,536	4,979	CUSTODIAL & ANNUITY OBLIGATIONS	8,373,647	8,696,899
ASSETS HELD IN TRUST	559,779	447,440			
INVESTMENTS	16,022,571	16,908,632	NET ASSETS	\$9,484,990	\$8,883,817
			UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	2,671,659	2,197,081
			TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1,406,924	2,086,904
			PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	5,406,407	4,599,832

Endowments are not the only way the faithful help shape the future of the Catholic Church in western North Carolina. Through support of the Diocesan Support Appeal, parishioners are helping proclaim Christ today around the diocese.

Diocesan Support Appeal

Proclaiming Christ by providing for today

The 2007 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA), which was themed “Answer the Call,” was supported by more than 19,000 households who generously responded to Christ’s call to be his disciples. The appeal raised more than \$4,250,000 to help fund more than 50 ministries to better the lives of countless people.

“The DSA provides every Catholic ... with an opportunity to answer God’s call with ‘Here I am. Send me,’” said Bishop Jugis.

“We’re each called by Christ through our baptism to play some role in building the Kingdom of God,” said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of diocesan development.

“We’re each called to look beyond our own personal needs and the needs of our parishes to the big picture: how we minister to one another here in the Diocese of Charlotte,” she said.

The ministries funded by the DSA fulfill the needs of others throughout the Diocese of Charlotte by feeding the hungry, providing education, evangelizing and in many other ways.

DSA funding of diocesan ministries during the past fiscal year was as follows:

DSA MINISTRY FUNDING FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007		2008	2007
GRANTS TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	\$ 1,498,486	\$ 1,450,447	EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES	\$ 1,416,296	\$ 1,267,713
			CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE	273,858	145,556
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES	\$ 622,432	\$ 669,007	CAMPUS MINISTRY	412,214	400,356
HISPANIC	535,892	581,342	FAITH FORMATION	300,700	287,345
AFRICAN AMERICAN	38,932	33,609	YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY	43,383	52,868
HMONG	47,608	41,970	YOUTH MINISTRY	156,181	164,648
NATIVE AMERICAN	-	12,086	EVANGELIZATION/MINISTRY FORMATION	79,413	73,195
			MEDIA RESOURCES	89,878	88,360
VOCATIONS	\$ 272,726	\$ 220,240	VICAR’S OFFICE	60,669	55,385
SEMINARIAN FORMATION	189,062	147,011			
PERMANENT DIACONATE	83,664	73,229	HOUSING MINISTRY	\$ 90,376	\$ 57,737
			DSA FUNDRAISING COSTS	\$ 156,320	\$ 151,170

Of the amount collected, \$530,534.06 was distributed to 45 parishes, representing funds collected that exceeded parish goals. Forty-four parishes fell short of their goal and contributed a total of \$186,386.11 to the DSA from parish funds.

Hundreds of people — parish catechists, youth ministers, Hispanic coordinators, counselors, social workers, seminarians, diaconate candidates and parish lay leaders — proclaim Christ’s message to our brothers and sisters in faith thanks to contributions to the DSA.

Special Collections

Proclaiming Christ by providing for special needs

Christ's message was meant to be shared and heard by all. Special collections give Catholics in western North Carolina the opportunity to boldly proclaim this message and share in the missionary work of the Catholic Church throughout this country and the rest of the world.

Special collections benefited Catholic Relief Services, the Holy Land, the Catholic Church in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe, Peter's Pence, Catholic University of America, the Catholic Communications Campaign, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the United States Mission Appeal, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and religious retirement. The following presents the funds raised through the collections to help proclaim Christ through faith and action beyond the borders of the diocese.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2008	2007
INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL COMBINED COLLECTION	\$ 297,232	\$ 238,963
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	201,795	207,205
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION	270,256	279,240
COMBINED MISSION COLLECTION	250,566	223,872
TOTAL	\$ 1,019,849	\$ 949,280



REPORT FROM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I am pleased to report that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The combined financial statements are presented on the following pages, and include all significant entities of the diocese except for parishes (and parish and inter-parochial schools), which report separately to their parishioners.

The diocese completed the year ended June 30, 2008 with an increase in net assets totaling \$1,813,969, which includes a \$90,295 charge to net assets relating to our pension plans' most recent actuarial valuations. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,904,264, consisting of:

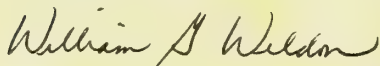
- \$544,091 increase in endowment funds and perpetual trust funds, which are permanent in nature;
- \$432,994 decrease in net assets whose use is restricted by donor imposed stipulations, which is primarily attributable to investment losses on endowment funds; and
- \$1,793,167 increase in unrestricted net assets. Included in this increase are one-time bequests totaling \$1,173,871, investment losses of \$425,079 and market adjustments relating to two interest-rate swap agreements (that provide a fixed rate of interest on a majority of diocesan long-term debt) of -\$796,228. Also included is the unrestricted net activity of diocesan schools, which, excluding the change in market value of an interest-rate swap agreement and investment income, totaled \$3,050,603.

Cash flow resulting from unrestricted activities provides funds needed for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, and for repayment of long-term debt. At June 30, 2008, the diocese had outstanding long-term debt totaling \$26,940,000.

The pie charts below depict the major sources of revenues and summarize expenditures for the fiscal year just ended. Revenues for the year totaled \$62,193,276. Support of diocesan programs and ministries — i.e., program expenses — totaled \$38,659,516, representing 64 percent of total expenditures. The remaining expenditures relate to supporting activities — i.e., administrative and fundraising expenses — that totaled \$21,629,496, of which 14 percent represents depreciation and amortization expense (\$3,121,471). A further breakout of these expenses by functional area is presented within the Statement of Activities contained on page 16.

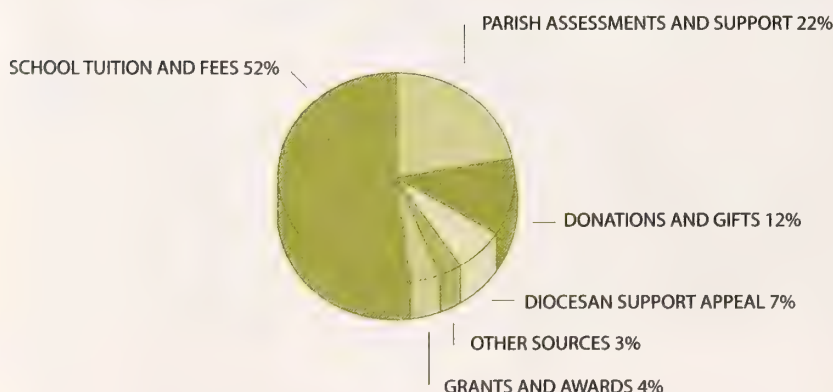
The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability. To this end, the diocese has enumerated principles for strong financial governance, which can be found on the diocesan Web site. It is the responsibility of the diocesan Finance Office to ensure that accounting policies and procedures are being adhered to, and internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. Financial oversight is provided by routine financial audits and the diocesan Finance Council, which is directly responsible to the bishop.

The combined financial statements of the Diocese of Charlotte for the years ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Deloitte and Touché, LLP was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

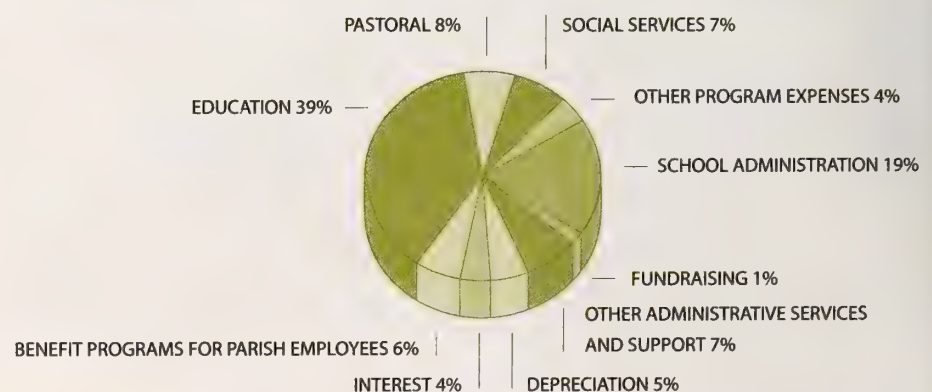


William G. Weldon, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

SOURCES OF REVENUE



USES OF OUR RESOURCES



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statements of financial position of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the "Diocese") as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, and the related combined statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These combined financial statements are the responsibility of Diocesan management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these combined financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the combined financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Diocese's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the

amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such combined financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Diocese as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 2 to the combined financial statements, as of June 30, 2007, the Diocese changed its method of accounting for defined benefit pension obligations and other postretirement benefit obligations to conform to Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans — An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132R*.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

September 24, 2008

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 13,203,388	\$ 16,995,729
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:		
DUES — NET	979,928	1,113,196
RENT — NET	1,977,610	1,400,026
FEES RECEIVABLE — NET	9,420,428	2,018,464
DEFERRED RENT	1,617,960	1,536,486
ADVANCES TO PARISHES — NET	2,194,337	2,201,792
ASSETS HELD IN TRUST	559,779	447,440
OFFICIAL INTEREST IN PERPETUAL TRUSTS	4,567,454	4,974,029
INVESTMENTS	63,537,998	59,085,794
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — NET	57,517,603	58,362,727
PAID EXPENSES AND OTHER ASSETS	740,428	786,420
TOTAL	\$156,316,913	\$148,922,103
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$1,989,465	\$1,556,173
ACCRUED SALARIES, WAGES, AND BENEFITS	2,558,476	2,754,705
ACCRUED HEALTH CLAIMS	628,461	390,143
ACCRUED PROPERTY/LIABILITY CLAIMS	140,722	150,568
ACCRUED PENSION EXPENSE	15,066,886	13,810,716
ACCRUED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR RETIRED CLERGY	4,184,975	4,386,666
UNEARNED REVENUE	7,890,767	7,650,360
BONDS PAYABLE	26,940,000	29,185,000
FAIR MARKET VALUE OF INTEREST RATE SWAP AGREEMENTS	869,366	73,138
CUSTODIAL AND ANNUITY OBLIGATIONS	34,714,805	29,445,613
TOTAL LIABILITIES	94,983,923	89,403,082
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
UNDESIGNATED	25,231,632	31,586,442
NET ASSET CHARGE — LAY PENSION PLAN	(4,810,422)	(3,677,293)
NET ASSET CHARGE — PRIEST RETIREMENT PLAN	(4,655,319)	(5,150,284)
NET ASSET CHARGE — PRIEST POSTRETIREMENT PLAN	(1,098,666)	(1,646,535)
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	14,667,225	21,112,330
UNDESIGNATED	29,496,600	21,348,623
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	44,163,825	42,460,953
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	3,656,539	4,089,533
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	13,512,626	12,968,535
TOTAL NET ASSETS	61,332,990	59,519,021
TOTAL	\$156,316,913	\$148,922,103

NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

	2008	2007
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 1,813,969	\$ 9,466,042
ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH PROVIDED		
BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION	3,121,471	3,150,036
NET LOSS (GAIN) ON INVESTMENTS	3,286,404	(4,360,564)
CHANGE IN FAIR MARKET VALUE OF INTEREST RATE SWAP AGREEMENTS	796,228	218,754
LOSS ON SALE OF PROPERTY	313,187	19,684
LOSS (GAIN) ON BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN PERPETUAL TRUSTS	406,575	(388,596)
NET ASSET CHARGE — LAY PENSION PLAN AND PRIEST RETIREMENT PLAN	90,295	
CHANGES IN OPERATING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:		
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE — OTHER	(577,584)	499,467
ASSETS HELD IN TRUST	(112,339)	(41,281)
DEFERRED RENT	(81,474)	64,859
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE — NET	133,268	(28,795)
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER ASSETS	26,698	70,376
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	433,292	153,284
ACCRUED SALARIES, WAGES, AND BENEFITS	(196,229)	506,497
ACCRUED PENSION EXPENSE	1,165,874	(681,672)
ACCRUED HEALTH CLAIMS	238,318	(356,976)
ACCRUED PROPERTY/LIABILITY CLAIMS	(9,846)	55,028
ACCRUED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR RETIRED CLERGY	(201,691)	1,998,747
UNEARNED REVENUE	240,407	430,557
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	10,886,823	10,775,447
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	(2,623,762)	(3,194,553)
PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF PROPERTY	53,523	31,289
PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS	(8,192,062)	(9,528,642)
PROCEEDS FROM MATURITY/SALES OF INVESTMENTS	453,454	255,461
ISSUANCE OF ADVANCES AND NOTES	(8,021,305)	(1,308,351)
PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON ADVANCES AND NOTES	647,784	945,456
DECREASE (INCREASE) IN DISCOUNT AND ALLOWANCES ON ADVANCES AND NOTES	(20,988)	124,197
INCREASE IN CUSTODIAL OBLIGATIONS	5,269,192	7,958,176
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(12,434,164)	(4,716,967)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES —		
REPAYMENT OF BONDS PAYABLE	\$(2,245,000)	\$ (1,825,000)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,792,341)	4,233,480
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:		
BEGINNING OF YEAR	16,995,729	12,762,249
END OF YEAR	\$13,203,388	\$ 16,995,729
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA — INTEREST PAID	\$ 1,368,194	\$ 1,493,654

SEE NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

	2008				2007			
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUES:								
SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES	\$32,538,254	\$ -	\$ -	\$32,538,254	\$30,198,514	\$ -	\$ -	\$30,198,514
CONTRIBUTIONS — DIOCESAN SUPPORT								
APPEAL (DSA)	4,443,307			4,443,307	4,278,930			4,278,930
OTHER SUPPORT — DSA PROGRAMS	355,803			355,803	559,270			559,270
OTHER DONATIONS AND GIFTS	4,491,437	2,190,667	702,359	7,384,463	3,234,313	1,983,675	509,304	5,727,292
PARISH ASSESSMENTS:								
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PROGRAMS	4,670,701			4,670,701	5,228,100			5,228,100
PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,399,215			1,399,215	1,342,999			1,342,999
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD	824,520			824,520	793,770			793,770
CENTRAL OFFICE	3,126,168			3,126,168	2,855,595			2,855,595
PARISH SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS	3,456,715			3,456,715	3,355,911			3,355,911
FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCY AWARDS	1,833,341			1,833,341	1,861,956			1,861,956
OTHER GRANTS AND AWARDS	2,011	533,059		535,070	2,344	606,826		609,170
FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED	1,452,436			1,452,436	1,173,677			1,173,677
RENTAL INCOME	1,268,016			1,268,016	1,104,068			1,104,068
INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME	2,368,580	202,485	144,091	2,715,156	1,763,176	174,148	142,375	2,079,699
NET REALIZED/UNREALIZED GAIN(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS	(2,793,659)	(597,659)	(301,662)	(3,692,980)	3,535,706	777,065	436,389	4,749,160
CHANGE IN FAIR MARKET VALUE OF INTEREST								
RATE SWAP AGREEMENTS	(796,228)			(796,228)	(218,754)			(218,754)
LOSS ON SALE OF PROPERTY					(19,684)			(19,684)
OTHER INCOME	679,319			679,319	1,295,925			1,295,925
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS —								
SATISFACTION OF PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS	2,762,243	(2,761,546)	(697)		2,617,057	(2,616,570)	(487)	
TOTAL REVENUES	62,082,179	(432,994)	544,091	62,193,276	64,962,873	925,144	1,087,581	66,975,598
EXPENSES:								
PROGRAM EXPENSES:								
PASTORAL:								
CLERGY, VOCATIONS, AND SUPPORT FOR								
RETIRED PRIESTS	3,111,401			3,111,401	3,142,568			3,142,568
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES	852,173			852,173	869,446			869,446
CONTRIBUTIONS, GRANTS, AND SUBSIDIES	712,245			712,245	801,312			801,312
EDUCATION:								
REGIONAL AND DIOCESAN SCHOOLS	21,618,234			21,618,234	19,806,835			19,806,835
OTHER EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION	1,788,562			1,788,562	1,666,570			1,666,570
SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS	4,378,388			4,378,388	4,347,114			4,347,114
BENEFIT PROGRAMS FOR LAY PARISH EMPLOYEES	3,645,734			3,645,734	3,603,518			3,603,518
PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAMS								
FOR PARISHES	766,199			766,199	924,612			924,612
PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD	875,835			875,835	840,432			840,432
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER	488,278			488,278	445,822			445,822
TRIBUNAL	422,467			422,467	366,941			366,941
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	38,659,516	-	-	38,659,516	36,815,170	-	-	36,815,170
ADMINISTRATIVE:								
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	\$2,953,386			\$2,953,386	\$2,711,741			\$2,711,741
REGIONAL AND DIOCESAN SCHOOLS								
ADMINISTRATION	11,207,585			11,207,585	10,532,532			10,532,532
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	964,099			964,099	880,403			880,403
INTEREST — PARISH SAVINGS AND								
INVESTMENT PROGRAMS	858,929			858,929	847,717			847,717
INTEREST — LONG-TERM DEBT	1,343,919			1,343,919	1,488,812			1,488,812
DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION	3,121,471			3,121,471	3,130,740			3,130,740
OTHER	455,737			455,737	447,405			447,405
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	20,905,126	-	-	20,905,126	20,039,350	-	-	20,039,350
FUNDRAISING	724,370			724,370	655,036			655,036
TOTAL EXPENSES	60,289,012	-	-	60,289,012	57,509,556	-	-	57,509,556
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NET								
ASSET CHARGE	1,793,167	(432,994)	544,091	1,904,264	7,453,317	925,144	1,087,581	9,466,042
NET ASSET CHARGE - LAY PENSION PLAN AND								
PRIEST RETIREMENT PLAN	(90,295)			(90,295)				
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,702,872	(432,994)	544,091	1,813,969	7,453,317	925,144	1,087,581	9,466,042
NET ASSETS:								
BEGINNING OF YEAR	42,460,953	4,089,533	12,968,535	59,519,021	40,964,236	3,164,389	11,880,954	56,009,579
EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF SFAS No. 158					(5,956,600)			(5,956,600)
END OF YEAR	\$44,163,825	\$3,656,539	\$13,512,626	\$61,332,990	\$42,460,953	\$ 4,089,533	\$12,968,535	\$59,519,021

SEE NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007

ORGANIZATION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the "Diocese") serves the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Diocese comprises a geographic area of 20,470 square miles covering 46 counties ranging from the western North Carolina piedmont region to the North Carolina mountain region. The accompanying combined financial statements do not include the liabilities (including the Parish Notes discussed in Note 10), or activities of individual parishes and interparochial schools. These excluded activities are entities distinct from the offices and organizations included herein, which maintain separate accounts, and carry on their own programs.

The accompanying combined financial statements include the accounts of the following organizations which operate under the auspices of the Diocese:

Central Administration ("Central Administration"), which provides administrative and other services to parishes, schools, and agencies of the Diocese. Services include: coordination and support of educational programs; multicultural ministries; the vocations program; continuing formation of and support of retired priests; parish savings and investment program; employee benefit program; property/casualty insurance program; diocesan tri-union operation of the Catholic Conference Center and Cathedral Publishing, the publisher of the *Catholic News & Herald*.

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS), which provides public secondary education for the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point areas.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), which operates eight schools throughout Mecklenburg County.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation, which solicits and administers fundraising activities for the benefit of MACS.

Triad Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation, which conducts and administers fundraising activities for the benefit of Bishop McGuinness Catholic School and the parish-based Catholic schools in the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point area.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc., a professional human services agency providing counseling, adoption, family support, foster care, crisis intervention, material assistance, burial services, Hispanic and immigration services, refugee resettlement, justice and advocacy, and education, along with family enrichment services. CSS manages the operations of Catholic Legal Services, Inc., which was established to provide indigent legal services for the Hispanic community. During fiscal 2008 and 2007, there was minimal activity on the part of Catholic Legal Services.

Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc., which solicits, administers, and disburses funds through the creation of endowments for educational, religious, and charitable purposes for the benefit of the Diocese and its various parishes, schools, and agencies.

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation, whose mission is to create, maintain, promote, and operate housing facilities and provide accompanying services for seniors, individuals, and families with low incomes, and other vulnerable populations.

Activities of the above organizations have been combined by functional area in the accompanying combined statements of activities. All significant diocesan transactions have been eliminated in combination.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING POLICIES

Level of Presentation — The accounts of the Diocese are maintained on the consolidated basis. The Diocese complies with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*, and FASB Statement No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

Assets managed by the Diocese on behalf of affiliated organizations are in accordance with FASB Statement No. 136, *Transfers of Assets to a Not-for-Profit Organization or Charitable Trust that Raises or Holds Contributions for Others*.

Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — The Diocese considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Diocese has designated \$450,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves as of June 30, 2008 and 2007.

Assets Held in Trust — Assets held in trust represent future beneficial interests of the Diocese under various trust arrangements. Amounts are recorded based

on the actuarially determined present value of the future gift.

Investments — Investments are carried at market value. Market values are based on readily available market quotes.

Property and Equipment — Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. At June 30, 2008 and 2007, the major classes of property and equipment represented are as follows:

	2008	2007	LIFE (IN YEARS)
LAND	\$ 9,740,047	\$ 9,659,638	N/A
LAND IMPROVEMENTS	4,631,414	4,491,952	10-15
BUILDINGS	55,130,786	54,560,723	30-40
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	7,872,206	7,318,743	3-10
VEHICLES	1,682,019	1,628,368	5
INTEREST IN ST. MATTHEW EDUCATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS	5,688,796	5,548,618	VARIES
	241,248	182,799	N/A
	84,986,516	83,390,841	
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(27,468,913)	(25,028,114)	
	\$57,517,603	\$58,362,727	

The interest in St. Matthew Education Center shown above represents the total amount paid by MACS for the acquisition and construction of property and equipment in accordance with a joint-usage agreement with St. Matthew Catholic Church. It is being amortized over the useful lives of the assets in which MACS has an interest. The amortization is included in accumulated depreciation shown above.

Interest expense incurred that relates to the acquisition or construction of property and equipment is capitalized. No interest expense was capitalized in fiscal years 2008 and 2007.

Custodial Obligations — Custodial funds are managed by the Diocese, as agent, on behalf of the originating organization. These funds are not recorded as contributions or net assets of the Diocese but rather are included as assets and corresponding custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

Net Assets — Diocesan net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted — Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Diocese which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The Diocese has designated \$29,496,600 and \$21,348,623 of unrestricted net assets as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, primarily for future expenses relating to DSA program agencies, the pastoral center, employee benefit programs, self-insured programs, retired clergy benefit programs, debt service, grant awards, and endowments.

Temporarily Restricted — Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Diocese is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Diocese. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the accompanying combined statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted — Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Diocese is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

School Tuition, Fees, and Parish Support — Tuition and related fees represent amounts paid by students' families, net of applied tuition assistance, and are recognized over the school year in which earned. Parish support of schools represents contributions made by the participating parishes of the Diocese. Amounts received in the current year for the following school year's tuition are recorded as unearned revenue in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

Investment Income — Changes in the market value of securities are reflected as net realized/unrealized gains (losses) on investments in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

New Accounting Standard — In September 2006, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plan — An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132R*. FASB Statement No. 158 requires balance sheet recognition of the funded status of pension and postretirement benefit plans. Under FASB Statement No. 158, actuarial gains and losses, prior service costs or credits, and any remaining transition assets or obligations that have not been recognized under previous accounting standards must be recognized as a component of net assets until they are amortized as a component of net periodic benefit expense. Additionally, the measurement date (the date at which plan assets and the benefit obligation are measured) is required to be the Diocese's fiscal year-end, which is consistent with our current practice. FASB Statement No. 158 was effective

for the Diocese for the year ended June 30, 2007. Based on the funded status of the Diocese's defined benefit pension plans as of June 30, 2007, the adoption of FASB Statement No. 158 caused a reduction in net assets of \$5,956,600. Refer to Note 8 for additional details pertaining to the pension and postretirement plans.

Tax-Exempt Status — The Diocese is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been reflected in the accompanying combined financial statements.

3. PLEDGES AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The DSA campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, pledges receivable included \$874,416 and \$970,428 in DSA campaign related pledges that had not been collected.

The Diocese assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement, and the Catholic News and Herald. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 2008 and 2007, were \$168,588 and \$58,586, respectively.

4. NOTES RECEIVABLE

The Diocese has \$9,420,428 and \$2,018,464 of notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, of which \$9,346,974 and \$2,001,472 were with parishes. These notes bear various interest rates.

5. ADVANCES TO PARISHES

The Diocese maintains a revolving loan fund, which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 2008 and 2007, totaled \$2,866,202 and \$2,666,441, respectively. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected, net of allowances, at their estimated present value of \$2,194,337 and \$2,201,792 in the accompanying combined statements of financial position at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

6. INVESTMENTS

The Diocese utilizes financial institutions to provide custodial and recordkeeping services, in addition to investment managers with full discretionary authority, subject to the Diocese's investment policies, to provide investment management services. Investments are carried at market value and net realized and unrealized gains (losses) are reported in the accompanying combined statements of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 2008 and 2007, are summarized below:

	2008 COST	MARKET
FOUNDATION:		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS (INCLUDING UNRESTRICTED AND TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED):		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 857,617	\$ 857,617
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	9,737,581	10,226,912
BOND FUNDS	4,932,276	4,614,930
ANNUITY FUNDS:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,499	4,499
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	173,178	188,854
BOND FUNDS	136,865	129,759
TOTAL FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS	15,842,016	16,022,571
OTHER:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	23,694,427	23,694,427
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	8,690,028	9,815,087
BONDS AND BOND FUNDS	7,639,418	7,151,580
MUTUAL FUNDS	7,002,280	6,797,084
OTHER	57,249	57,249
TOTAL OTHER INVESTMENTS	47,083,402	47,515,427
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 62,925,418	\$ 63,537,998

	2007 COST	MARKET
FOUNDATION:		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS (INCLUDING UNRESTRICTED AND TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED):		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 508,211	\$ 508,211
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	8,881,128	11,302,807
BOND FUNDS	4,700,000	4,715,986

ANNUITY FUNDS:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	9,761	9,761
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	157,990	231,616
BOND FUNDS	144,580	140,251

TOTAL FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS	14,401,670	16,908,632
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OTHER:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	16,359,823	16,359,823
MARKETABLE SECURITIES:		
EQUITY SECURITIES	7,690,901	10,148,227
BONDS AND BOND FUNDS	7,337,772	7,362,560
MUTUAL FUNDS	6,622,254	8,249,302
OTHER	57,250	57,250

TOTAL OTHER INVESTMENTS	38,068,000	42,177,162
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TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$52,469,670	\$59,085,794
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7. PARISH SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The Diocese administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools, and agencies. Interest was earned at Prime less 3.75% for the savings program and Prime less 2.75% for the investment program in fiscal 2008 and 2007. The Prime rate was 5.00% and 8.25% for June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time, whereas withdrawal of investment program funds is subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled \$27,591,931 and \$21,830,139 at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

8. PENSION AND RETIREMENT PLANS

Lay Noncontributory Defined Benefit Pension Plan — The Central Administration sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the "Lay Plan") for all eligible diocesan lay employees. The Lay Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. Each diocesan entity was assessed 4.5% of lay employees' salaries to fund the contribution to the Lay Plan and certain other employee benefits. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The funded status and other information of the Lay Plan as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, is set forth in the following tables.

FUNDED STATUS AND AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION:		
	2008	2007
PROJECTED BENEFIT OBLIGATION	\$(30,422,307)	\$(29,900,143)
FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS —		
END OF YEAR	22,524,745	23,313,608
FUNDED STATUS	\$ (7,897,562)	\$ (6,586,535)
ACCRUED PENSION EXPENSE LIABILITY — END OF YEAR	\$ (7,897,562)	\$ (6,586,535)

AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (NET ASSET CHARGE) NOT YET RECOGNIZED AS NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:		
UNRECOGNIZED TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 28,175	\$ 56,334
CUMULATIVE UNRECOGNIZED NET LOSS	4,782,247	3,620,949
NET ASSET CHARGE	\$ 4,810,422	\$ 3,677,293

AMOUNTS INCLUDED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (NET ASSET CHARGE) THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE RECOGNIZED AS NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST DURING THE NEXT YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:		
AMORTIZATION OF TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 28,200	\$ 28,000
AMORTIZATION OF UNRECOGNIZED LOSS	217,500	78,900
	\$ 245,700	\$ 106,900

AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES — NET PERIODIC

BENEFIT COST	\$ 1,752,133	\$ 1,913,642
OTHER INFORMATION:		
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 1,574,235	\$ 1,433,436
BENEFITS PAID	867,562	858,783
ACCUMULATED BENEFIT OBLIGATION	27,329,931	26,973,638
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE ASSUMPTIONS:		
DISCOUNT RATE	7.00 %	6.25 %
EXPECTED RETURN ON PLAN ASSETS	7.50	8.00
RATE OF COMPENSATION INCREASE	4.00	3.25

The assumed long-term rate of return is based on historical returns and future expectations.

As of June 30, 2008 and 2007, the Lay Plan's investments are maintained in trust accounts managed by Wachovia Bank, N.A. (the "Trustee"). The Trustee has full discretionary authority, subject to the Plan's investment policy. The percentage of total investments by asset class as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, is as follows:

	2008	2007
DOMESTIC EQUITY	44 %	44 %
DOMESTIC FIXED INCOME	30	30
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	24	25
CASH	2	1
TOTAL	100 %	100 %

The Plan's investment policy stipulates five allowable asset classes for inclusion in the portfolio: domestic equity, domestic fixed income, international equity, alternative investments, and cash and cash equivalents. The acceptable asset allocation ranges as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, are as follows:

	2008	2007
DOMESTIC EQUITY	30%–80%	30%–80%
DOMESTIC FIXED INCOME	20–60	20–60
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	0–30	0–30
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS	0–10	0–10
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	0–20	0–20

In addition, the policy stipulates socially responsible investment guidelines, investment return objectives, both in the aggregate and relative to applicable investment benchmarks, minimum standards for investment holdings, and other guidelines for the investment of Plan assets.

The estimated contribution to the Lay Plan for fiscal year 2009 is approximately \$1,575,000.

Benefits expected to be paid over the next 10 fiscal years, as of June 30, 2008, are as follows:

2009	\$ 993,632
2010	1,083,561
2011	1,175,724
2012	1,273,413
2013	1,488,894
2014–2018	9,761,680
TOTAL	\$ 15,776,904

Tax-Deferred Annuity Plan — The Central Administration sponsors a tax-deferred defined contribution plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for all eligible diocesan employees. Employer-matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of employee contributions. Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred defined contribution plan.

Priest Retirement Plan — The Central Administration sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Priest Retirement Plan (the "Priest Plan") to provide pension benefits for diocesan priests. The Priest Plan provides for benefits, for priests who are fully vested, in a uniform monthly amount that is increased annually. An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for priest retirement and other priest benefits. Each parish was assigned 3.5% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection for fiscal 2008 and 2007. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are reported as temporarily restricted revenues in the accompanying combined statements of activities. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The funded status and other information of the Priest Plan as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, is set forth in the following tables:

FUNDED STATUS AND AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION:		
	2008	2007
PROJECTED BENEFIT OBLIGATION	\$(11,462,584)	\$(11,910,286)
FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS —		
END OF YEAR	4,293,260	4,686,105
FUNDED STATUS	\$ (7,169,324)	\$ (7,224,181)
ACCRUED PENSION EXPENSE LIABILITY — END OF YEAR	\$ (7,169,324)	\$ (7,224,181)

AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (NET ASSET CHARGE) NOT YET RECOGNIZED AS NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:		
UNRECOGNIZED TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 828,949	\$ 898,02
UNRECOGNIZED PRIOR SERVICE COST	2,671,253	2,868,61
CUMULATIVE UNRECOGNIZED NET LOSS	1,155,117	1,383,64
NET ASSET CHARGE	\$ 4,655,319	\$ 5,150,28

AMOUNTS INCLUDED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (NET ASSET CHARGE) THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE RECOGNIZED AS NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST DURING THE NEXT YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:		
AMORTIZATION OF TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 69,100	\$ 69,00
AMORTIZATION OF PRIOR SERVICE COST	197,300	197,30
AMORTIZATION OF UNRECOGNIZED NET LOSS	520	7,90
	\$ 266,920	\$ 274,20

AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES: NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST		
	\$ 973,954	\$ 993,08

OTHER INFORMATION:		
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	\$ 533,846	\$ 508,42
BENEFITS PAID	638,599	636,36
ACCUMULATED BENEFIT OBLIGATION	11,462,584	11,910,28
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE ASSUMPTIONS:		
DISCOUNT RATE	7.00 %	6.25 %
EXPECTED RETURN ON PLAN ASSETS	7.50	8.00

The assumed long-term rate of return is based on historical returns and future expectations.

As of June 30, 2008 and 2007, the Priest Plan's investments are maintained in trust accounts managed by Wachovia Bank, N.A. (the "Trustee"). The Trustee has full discretionary authority, subject to the Plan's investment policy. The percentage of total investments by asset class as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, is as follows:

	2008	2007
DOMESTIC EQUITY	45 %	47 %
DOMESTIC FIXED INCOME	29	25
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	24	27
CASH	2	1
TOTAL	100 %	100 %

The Plan's investment policy stipulates five allowable asset classes for inclusion in the portfolio: domestic equity, domestic fixed income, international equity, alternative investments, and cash and cash equivalents. The acceptable asset allocation ranges as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, are as follows:

	2008	2007
DOMESTIC EQUITY	30%–80%	30%–80%
DOMESTIC FIXED INCOME	20–60	20–60
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	0–30	0–25
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS	0–10	0–10
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	0–20	0–20

In addition, the policy stipulates socially responsible investment guidelines, investment return objectives, both in the aggregate and relative to applicable investment benchmarks, minimum standards for investment holdings, and other guidelines for the investment of Plan assets.

The estimated contribution to the Priest Plan for fiscal year 2009 is approximately \$675,000. Benefits expected to be paid over the next 10 fiscal years, of June 30, 2008, are as follows:

2009	\$ 687,452
2010	704,638
2011	722,254
2012	828,895
2013	885,938
2014–2018	6,158,641
	\$ 9,987,818

Clergy Retirement Benefits Other Than Pension — In addition to providing the Priest Plan discussed above, the Central Administration sponsors the Retired Clergy Health Plan which provides retired diocesan priests certain unfunded health and long-term care benefits. Obligations arising under the Retired Clergy Health Plan are satisfied from the general assets of the Central Administration.

funded status and other information of the plans as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, are as follows:

	2008		2007	
	LONG-TERM CARE	HEALTH	LONG-TERM CARE	HEALTH
ED STATUS AND AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE BINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION:				
ECTED BENEFIT OBLIGATION	\$(1,417,710)	\$(2,767,265)	\$(1,481,117)	\$(2,905,549)
VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS				
ED STATUS	\$(1,417,710)	\$(2,767,265)	\$(1,481,117)	\$(2,905,549)
RUED PENSION EXPENSE LIABILITY — END YEAR	\$(1,417,710)	\$(2,767,265)	\$(1,481,117)	\$(2,905,549)
OUNTS RECOGNIZED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (ET ASSET CHARGE) NOT YET RECOGNIZED AS NET ODIC BENEFIT COST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:				
UNRECOGNIZED TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 608,597	\$ 986,010	\$ 659,313	\$ 1,068,177
CUMULATIVE UNRECOGNIZED NET (GAIN) LOSS	(407,194)	(88,747)	(327,107)	246,152
ASSET CHARGE	\$201,403	\$ 897,263	\$ 332,206	\$ 1,314,329
OUNTS INCLUDED IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (ET ASSETS CHARGE) THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE COGNIZED AS NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST URING THE NEXT YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:				
ORTIZATION OF TRANSITION OBLIGATION	\$ 50,700	\$ 82,150	\$ 50,700	\$ 82,100
ORTIZATION OF UNRECOGNIZED NET GAIN	(15,600)		(9,950)	
	\$35,100	\$ 82,150	\$ 40,750	\$ 82,100
OUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE COMBINED STATEMENTS ACTIVITIES — NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST	\$ 189,974	\$ 418,959	\$ 179,401	\$ 390,659
ER INFORMATION — BENEFITS PAID	\$ 122,578	\$ 140,178	\$ 78,618	\$ 139,230

accumulated postretirement benefit obligation for both the long-term care health plans was determined using a weighted-average discount rate of 6.25% and 6.25% as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Diocese administers medical and dental insurance coverage for eligible employees of the Diocese. The Diocese charges each organization premiums for coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Diocese has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental insurance. Approximately 11% and 14% of the premiums submitted by diocesan entities were paid to the third-party administrator for administrative services. The premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages in fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively. The remaining portion of the premiums is designated by the Diocese to pay claims which are processed by the third-party administrator. The Diocese has specific stop-loss coverage at \$125,000 per employee in fiscal 2008 and 2007, and aggregate coverage beginning at 120% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under \$125,000 for fiscal 2008 and 2007. The amount paid for employee health benefits was \$6,541,270 and \$5,342,164 in fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively.

NOTES PAYABLE

The Diocese had an unsecured line of credit from a bank for \$10,000,000 as of June 30, 2007, which expired on December 31, 2007. The line of credit accrued interest at the monthly LIBOR index plus 1.0% (6.32% at June 30, 2007). There were no outstanding borrowings under this line of credit at both June 30, 2008 and 2007.

In addition, the Diocese has certain notes outstanding with a bank ("Parish Notes"). The proceeds from the Parish Notes are being used to finance various parish construction and capital improvement projects as well as the purchase of equipment. Principal and interest payments on the Parish Notes are currently being paid to the bank directly by the specific parishes benefiting from the use of the proceeds. As of June 30, 2008, all principal and interest payments were current. However, if any parishes default on payments of principal and interest, it is likely that the Diocese would look to the Central Administration for payment. A combined entity, for funding. At June 30, 2008 and 2007, the Central Administration had not recognized any liabilities related to Parish Notes in the accompanying combined financial statements. The outstanding amount under these notes was \$12,176,164 and \$23,247,545 at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. In addition, the Diocese has entered into certain interest rate swap agreements on the Parish Notes with notional amounts totaling \$9,426,872 and \$3,043,623 as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The fair value of these interest rate swap agreements was \$(267,251) as of June 30, 2008.

BONDS PAYABLE

Series 2000 Bonds — In June 2000, the North Carolina Educational Facilities Financial Agency issued \$19,700,000 of variable rate educational facilities revenue bonds ("Series 2000 Bonds") with final maturity, subject to prior redemption, on June 1, 2017. The proceeds therefrom have been loaned to the Diocese, and are administered by the Central Administration. The proceeds have been used to finance the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of the current campus of BMCHS, and to refinance the

construction and equipping of a MACS entity, as well as to pay a portion of the interest on the bonds and to pay bond issue costs. The Central Administration allocates a pro rata portion of the Series 2000 Bonds to BMCHS and MACS. These affiliated entities have recorded their pro rata interest expense and resulting payable to the Central Administration within their respective combined financial statements.

Principal and interest payments on the Series 2000 Bonds are supported by an irrevocable, direct-pay letter of credit by a bank. The letter of credit, which expires on August 5, 2009 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter-of-credit agreement), supports the entire loan amount. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is 0.32%.

The mandatory redemption of the Series 2000 Bonds is being provided by sinking fund payments beginning in June 2002 and ending June 2017. Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due quarterly. The interest rate fluctuates on a weekly basis and was 1.50% and 3.77% at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

In June 2004, the Central Administration entered into an 11-year interest rate swap agreement for a portion of the Series 2000 Bonds, with an effective date of June 1, 2006. The notional amount of the agreement at June 30, 2008, was \$11,250,000. The agreement requires the Diocese to pay the counterparty a 4.50% fixed rate of interest on the notional amount. In return, the counterparty will pay the Diocese interest at a variable rate based on the published TBMA index in accordance with the swap agreement. The Diocese recorded the interest rate swap in accordance with FASB Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended, and did not designate the derivative as a hedge instrument. The fair value of this derivative of \$(712,556) and \$(394,791) as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, is reported as the fair market value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of financial position and changes in the fair value are reflected as the change in fair market value of interest rate swap agreements in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

Series 2002 Bonds — In November 2002, Mauricio W. West, as Administrator of the Diocese, issued variable rate demand bonds for the benefit of MACS ("Series 2002 Bonds"). The initial issuance was in the principal amount of \$3,000,000 with subsequent issuances, so that the maximum amount authorized of \$15,800,000 was issued. The proceeds therefrom have been used to finance the construction and equipping of new MACS' facilities and to pay bond issuance costs. The Series 2002 Bonds will mature, subject to prior redemption, on May 1, 2014.

Principal and interest payments on the Series 2002 Bonds are supported by an irrevocable, direct-pay letter of credit by a bank. As of June 30, 2007, the letter of credit, which expires on December 6, 2008 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter-of-credit agreement), supports the entire loan amount. Management anticipates obtaining an extension of the letter of credit prior to its expiration date. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is 0.45%.

Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due monthly. The interest rate is adjusted weekly as the bonds are remarketed and was 2.58% and 5.32% at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The Diocese has covenanted that it will cause the bonds to be redeemed from May 2004 through May 2014. As of June 30,

2008, the Diocese has made the required principal payments according to the redemption schedule.

The Series 2002 bond issue has been tendered by the bond holders as of September 24, 2008. The remarketing agent has been unsuccessful in remarketing the bonds as of the tender date. As required by the terms of the bond indenture, the bank direct-pay letter of credit has been drawn on to pay the tendering holders, creating a reimbursement obligation to Wachovia Bank with the following terms: interest is calculated at the bank's prime rate (5.0% as of September 24, 2008) and payable quarterly, and the outstanding principal balance is due in full on December 6, 2008. The Diocese is negotiating with the bank for extended payment terms. The remarketing agent is obligated to continue to try to remarket the bonds. If successful, the Diocese's reimbursement obligation to Wachovia Bank is satisfied with the remarketing proceeds.

In December 2002, the Diocese entered into a 12-year interest rate swap agreement for the benefit of MACS for a portion of the Series 2002 Bonds. The notional amount of the agreement at June 30, 2008, was \$8,955,000. The agreement requires MACS to pay the counterparty a 4.4% fixed rate of interest on the notional amount. In return, the counterparty will pay MACS interest at a variable rate based on the published LIBOR index in accordance with the swap agreement. MACS recorded the interest rate swap in accordance with FASB Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended, and did not designate the derivative as a hedge instrument. The fair value of this derivative of \$(156,810) and \$321,653 as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, is reported as the fair market value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of financial position and changes in the fair value are reflected as the change in fair market value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

The future repayment requirements of the Series 2000 and 2002 Bonds, assuming the bonds continue to be remarketed and mature over their scheduled repayment terms, are as follows:

	SERIES 2000 BONDS	SERIES 2002 BONDS	TOTAL
2009	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,565,000	\$ 2,715,000
2010	1,320,000	1,905,000	3,225,000
2011	1,480,000	2,020,000	3,500,000
2012	1,660,000	2,160,000	3,820,000
2013	1,870,000	2,280,000	4,150,000
THEREAFTER	7,520,000	2,010,000	9,530,000

AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING —

JUNE 30, 2008	\$15,000,000	\$11,940,000	\$26,940,000
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The estimated fair value of the bonds payable approximates its carrying value. The fair value has been estimated based on rates currently available to the Diocese for debt with similar terms and remaining maturities.

12. FACILITIES USAGE AND LEASE AGREEMENTS

MACS has agreements with participating parishes and the Central Administration for their use of various facilities, with terms ranging from 12 to 18 years. These agreements provide for contingent rentals based on usage and may be amended or modified at any time. Expenses totaled \$512,753 and \$522,755 for fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively, and are reported within regional and diocesan schools administration expense in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

In November 2003, MACS entered into an agreement to lease the former All Saints School to a third party beginning July 1, 2004, for a 10-year period. In 2004, MACS paid to a broker a leasing commission of \$222,000. In 2005, MACS paid an additional \$208,673 in leasing commission to the broker. This total leasing commission is being amortized over the life of the lease. Rental revenue is recognized on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. As revenue recognized as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, exceeded rental payments received, a deferred rent asset of \$633,181 and \$516,950 is recorded on the combined statements of financial position as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The Diocese is the lessor in a ground lease agreement and the lessee in a space lease agreement with the same third party. In fiscal year 2003, the third party paid to the Diocese the net amount due for the entire terms of these lease agreements of \$290,128. The Diocese is also responsible for monthly payments relating to the operating costs associated with the space lease agreement. Prepaid rent relating to the space lease of \$984,779 and \$1,019,536 at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, is included in deferred rent in the accompanying combined statements of financial position. Unearned revenue relating to the ground lease of \$1,150,411 and \$1,191,014 at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, is reflected in the accompanying combined statements of financial position. The prepaid rent expense on the space lease and the unearned revenue related to the ground lease are both being amortized on a straight-line basis over the lives of the respective leases.

13. CONTINGENCIES

From time to time, the Diocese is subject to various disputes and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of its business. Management is of the opinion, based upon information presently available, that it is unlikely that any liability to the extent not provided for through insurance or otherwise, would be material in relation to the Diocese financial position or operations.

Protecting God's Children

We proclaim Christ to the world around us by our efforts to provide a safe environment for all people, especially the young and the vulnerable.

In 2002, the U.S. bishops issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (charter). The charter addressed the Catholic Church's commitment to respond effectively, appropriately and compassionately to cases of abuse of minors by priests, deacons or other church personnel.

On July 1, 2003, the diocese issued the revised Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel. Our diocesan policy covers requirements for reporting abuse; screening of clergy, religious, seminarians and lay employees; procedures when allegations are made; education, media and communications; and sanctions for non-compliance. All diocesan personnel who work with children receive a copy of the policy, acknowledge its receipt and are required to comply with the policy in its entirety. All employees and volunteers are also required to comply with the Diocese of Charlotte Code of Ethics, which was issued Aug. 15, 2004.

In August 2008, the Diocese of Charlotte underwent an audit conducted by the Gavin Group, an agency contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to ascertain and document the progress made by dioceses in the United States in the implementation of the charter. This audit covered the period of July 2007 through June 2008. At the compliance audit's conclusion, the Diocese of Charlotte was found to be compliant with all articles of the charter.

Researchers have reported that there is no reliable way to predict in advance who might abuse a child. Therefore, the best preventive measures available to us are effective policies that check the backgrounds of caregivers, direct how care of children is to be provided and provide education about what abuse is and how it occurs.

The "Protecting God's Children" training program enables the diocese to educate those who work most closely with children to recognize and prevent sexual abuse. To date, more than 18,000 employees and volunteers have attended this training at nearly 700 workshops held throughout the diocese. During this past fiscal year, approximately 3,200 diocesan personnel attended these training sessions.

The diocese also recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the young and the vulnerable through adequate screening of clergy, religious, employees and volunteers. In the past year, 3,863 background checks were processed.

Our diocese has a victim assistance coordinator to assist victims of sexual abuse, whether the abuse took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese. In 1995, the diocese established a review board to serve as a confidential consultative body to the bishop. The board reviews cases of sexual abuse of minors that are reported to the diocese.

These activities represent a significant commitment by the diocese to provide a safe environment for our children and young people. The cost of the various programs and measures outlined herein totaled \$76,390 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

Our response as a diocese will always be one of sincere compassion in addressing the personal, psychological and spiritual needs of the people God entrusted to its care. When abusive conduct is reported, in addition to immediate action and investigation into the allegation, an immediate response to the alleged victim and his/her family is undertaken. During this year, the diocese provided financial assistance to, or on behalf of, victims totaling \$10,860, all of which was for counseling. As in the past, none of these funds came from the Diocesan Support Appeal or from parish savings.

The many ministries that support a safe environment for children and young people truly proclaim the good news of Christ's work within the Diocese of Charlotte.

Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

(704) 370-6299
www.charlottediocese.org



Established Jan. 12, 1972
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NOVEMBER 7, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 2

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

The danger of losing our
heavenly homes; how to
move forward in holiness

| PAGES 14-15

Bringing faith to people, and people to faith

Lay missionaries
commissioned
to evangelize in
Hispanic community

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — Javier Ramirez will no longer be a lone missionary visiting Haywood County's Hispanic residents.

"Jesus said go out two by two," Ramirez remarked after a ceremony Nov. 2 that commissioned him and 12 others to go about the county inviting members of the Hispanic community to become part of the parish at St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville.

"After baptism we're called to evangelize," Ramirez said, "so that's what we're going to do."

See MISSIONERS, page 6

Joyful service to the Lord



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

The brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor celebrate with a song during the blessing of their new mission house in Monroe Oct. 29. MOP is an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to serving the poor.

MOP brothers make home in Monroe to serve the poor

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

MONROE — It may be fall in North Carolina but the warmth of the Caribbean is spreading through Monroe with the arrival of four brothers from the Missionaries of the Poor.

Founded by Father Richard HoLung, the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) is an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to serving the poor.

Their main home is in Kingston, Jamaica, but their missions span the globe with locations in India, the Philippines, Haiti, Uganda and Kenya.

The opening of the mission in Monroe is the first mission of their order in the United States.

The brothers came to North Carolina in early October with

See MOP, page 5

Toward the 'coming challenges'

Catholic leaders congratulate Obama, offer
prayers for administration

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Catholic bishops, congratulated President-elect Barack Obama on his "historic election" Nov. 4 as the first African-American to win the White House.

"The people of our country have entrusted you with a great responsibility," the cardinal said in a letter to Obama on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"As Catholic bishops we offer our prayers that God give

See ELECTION, page 8

To share religious riches

Cardinal hopes forum
opens new chapter in
Catholic-Muslim relations

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — On the eve of the first meeting of the Catholic-Muslim Forum, the cardinal responsible for the dialogue said he hoped it would open "a new chapter" in a long

See FORUM, page 7



CNS PHOTO BY GARY HERSHORN, REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama arrives with his wife, Michelle, and their children, Malia and Sasha, at his election night rally in Chicago after being declared the winner of the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign Nov. 4.

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over financial irregularities

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With loving care

Mass memorializes victims of
violence in Chicago

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PUSHING POLITICAL BUTTONS



PHOTO BY CNS

Father Bob Williams, pastor of St. Justin Church in Hazel Park, Mich., and a judge with the archdiocesan metropolitan tribunal, poses with one of his political campaign buttons Nov. 2. Father Williams has been collecting the buttons for 38 years and now has 25,000 in his collection.

Priest's love of politics 'mushroomed' into massive button collection

HAZEL PARK, Mich. (CNS) — Father Bob Williams has a lot of reasons to love election season — about 25,000 of them, in fact.

Father Williams, pastor of St. Justin Church in Hazel Park and a judge with the Detroit archdiocesan metropolitan tribunal, has been collecting political campaign buttons for 38 years, amassing 25,000 in the process.

Starting at age 17, picking up a button here and there on various campaigns, he now buys, sells and trades them as he picks up duplicates and finds ones he has yet to add to his collection.

While many Americans might have gotten sick of hearing political ads wherever they turned before Election Day this year, Father Williams, a self-professed political junkie, revels in the nonstop coverage.

"I love politics," he said. "It mushroomed from there."

Father Williams started collecting buttons in 1972. Although some collectors focus on one particular person, or one political party, he collects from both parties, all elections, winners and losers, although he does focus on governors, senators and members of Congress.

The priest is a member of the American Political Items Collectors, and goes to trade shows and conventions when he can. He gets buttons from

people he knows who find them when cleaning out the basement or attic, but he does a lot of his buying and selling on eBay, the online auction site.

He has seen some buttons online for thousands of dollars, and many for hundreds, but among his more expensive buttons is a \$350 "Mayberry for Governor" pin, promoting the Democrat who lost the bid for Michigan's top spot in 1900. He has buttons from as early as 1890, when they were first made out of metal.

He finds that a lot of people who get involved in collecting political buttons are involved in campaigns or are history professors, political science teachers or history buffs, he said.

His entire collection has been scanned, stored digitally on his computer and then cataloged and, as he gets new buttons, those get scanned in batches. This makes it easier for him to show off his collection at trade shows.

If for nothing else, he said, he loves his collection for his own enjoyment and as his own museum, and added that his nieces and nephews will probably sell it when he's gone. But for now, he enjoys the different styles of buttons and continues to look for rare finds.

"Lots of people think I'm nuts," he said, although he pointed out that many other people collect strange things, too. "Everyone has their own."

Catholics begin to distribute aid to Pakistanis affected by quake

QUETTA, Pakistan (CNS) — Catholics have begun distributing aid to people affected by the recent earthquake in a remote part of Balochistan province.

Parishioners of St. Pius X Church in Quetta traveled nearly 50 miles northeast to Wam, and distributed aid they collected among themselves.

Quetta is the capital of Balochistan, considered Pakistan's most underdeveloped province.

"Announcements were made in church for the collection of essential commodities for the quake victims. After visiting the affected families for a few hours, we handed over packets of lentils, tea and sugar," Father Maqsood Nazir, the parish priest, told the Asian church news agency UCA News.

He said the Nov. 1 delivery was the first aid response from the Catholic Church following the Oct. 29 earthquake.

The priest led a group of seven parishioners who traveled overnight to reach Wam, one of the worst-hit villages.

"It was a dangerous journey on narrow and winding roads in the mountains," he said.

"Village children started following our vehicle as we came close to the rubble of mud houses," said Father Nazir.

About 300 people died and an estimated 40,000 were left homeless when the magnitude 6.4 quake struck before dawn.

It flattened mud-brick houses as people slept, and continuing aftershocks forced survivors to sleep outdoors at altitudes of 8,200 feet in very cold temperatures.

Religious organizations and political parties have set up collection centers across the country for donations of money and warm clothes.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Veteran's Day Mass* will be held St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 9, at 10:45 a.m. The front rows of the church will be reserved for veterans, active duty personnel and their families. All are invited to attend. The Mass will include an honor guard provided by the USAR 108th Training Command, patriotic music and a special blessing by Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. Active duty military are encouraged to wear their uniforms. For more information, call Kathleen Wilsbach of Connector's Ministry, at (704)-844-9450 or email kwilsbach@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning *Adult Spirituality* series takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "The Mystery of the Church: Encouraging the Age of the Laity," will be held Nov. 10. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month.

The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant mid-day prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children* will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the Christian Mother's Group will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a child are invited to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. If you would like to bring a photo or other memorabilia of a child, tables will be available to place them on when you arrive. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A *free performance by the U.S. Navy Band Jazz Ambassadors* from Washington, D.C. will take place at Charlotte Catholic High School Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are required for admission. To obtain tickets, send your request along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Navy Jazz Band, 9013 Raintree Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277. For more information, call Stanley Michalski at (704) 541-8016.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass for deceased spouses* will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the parish Women's Club will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a spouse are invited to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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NOVEMBER 7, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 2

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Financial crisis is reminder to help poor, says Vatican's U.N. nuncio

UNITED NATIONS (CNS)—Public reaction to the current financial crisis should not be limited to criticisms of what went wrong or expressions of sympathy to those most affected, said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations.

Instead, world leaders need to "come up with the ways and means to avoid similar crises in the future," he said.

In an Oct. 30 address to the U.N. General Assembly as part of a panel discussion on the global financial crisis, the archbishop urged delegates not to forget those "at the edges of the financial system" such as retirees, small family businesses, cottage industries and those who rely on their savings as an essential means of support.

"Above all," he said, "there is a need to invest in people. Once the inevitable financial salvage operations are over, governments and the international

community should invest their money in aid to the poorest populations."

Archbishop Migliore said blame for the current financial crisis could not just be placed on an ineffective regulatory system because it also extended to "the broader realm of ethical codes and moral conduct. Unbridled profiteering and the unscrupulous pursuit of gain at any cost have made people forget basic rules of business ethics."

He also commented on the lifestyles and values of the general public, saying that "increased and uncontrolled consumption" without regard for savings is "economically unsustainable."

Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, currently serving as president of the General Assembly, said the stakes were "too high for half-measures or quick fixes put together behind closed doors." He said solutions "must involve all countries in a democratic process."

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host the Park Road Community of Churches annual *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service*, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Neighboring churches will be invited to join for prayer, song, Scriptures and a special Thanksgiving message. The gathering will take place in the church sanctuary. A reception will follow in the activity center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — All are invited to attend the annual *Thanksgiving celebration* at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, in the parish center, Nov. 27, 12-3 p.m. This event is free. Bring your family and friends and join us for wonderful food and fellowship. Transportation is available for anyone who needs a ride. Meal deliveries are available for those who cannot come to the parish hall. For more information, call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All men of the Triad area are invited to participate in a short study of Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical, "*Spe Salvi*" ("*Saved by Hope*"), Tuesdays at St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., 6:30-7:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — A *Men's Evening of Reflection* will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Nov. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. This month's theme is "Never, Never, Ever Quit,"

and will feature a reflection on the virtue of perseverance in the lives of men who are husbands, fathers, workers and apostles. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the library at 6:30 p.m., followed by the talk in the church, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — In keeping with the special Pauline year as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, a special dramatic presentation entitled "*St. Paul: His Story*" will be presented by Paulist Father James DiLuzio, a missionary, actor and singer at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. Admittance is free. Father DiLuzio works out of New York City, traveling throughout the country with this presentation on the life and work of St. Paul. For more information, contact Jeannine Martin at (336) 294-4696, extension 225.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family in Clemmons is hosting a new *Homeschool Enrichment Program* for Catholic homeschooling families starting in January. The program will allow Catholic families to come together for the rosary, liturgy and other activities. Enrichment classes are free and available for students in prekindergarten through middle school. For more information, call Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoores@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov 8 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

Nov. 9-14
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting
Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 16 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

Nov. 22 (10 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Exhibit opens as debate continues over Pope Pius XII's wartime role

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican opened a major exhibit on the life and pontificate of Pope Pius XII, highlighting the late pope's actions on behalf of Jews and others who suffered during World War II.

The retrospective show — featuring photos, articles of clothing and documents — opened Nov. 4 in an exhibition hall adjacent to St. Peter's Square.

Several sections of the exhibit are dedicated to the Vatican's actions during the war. Pope Pius is described as a "defender of peace" who opened Vatican properties to refugees and created an office to help prisoners of war and their families.

The pope is pictured standing amid the Roman populace after aerial bombardment of the city, visiting the Vatican bakery that furnished free bread to residents, and meeting in 1943 with Jews who escaped deportation to concentration camps.

Press clippings and letters attesting to the pope's courage in defending the Jews are included, along with transcripts of the pope's radio broadcasts during the war.

To help demonstrate the pope's clear anti-Nazi sentiments, one glass case displays pages of a draft version

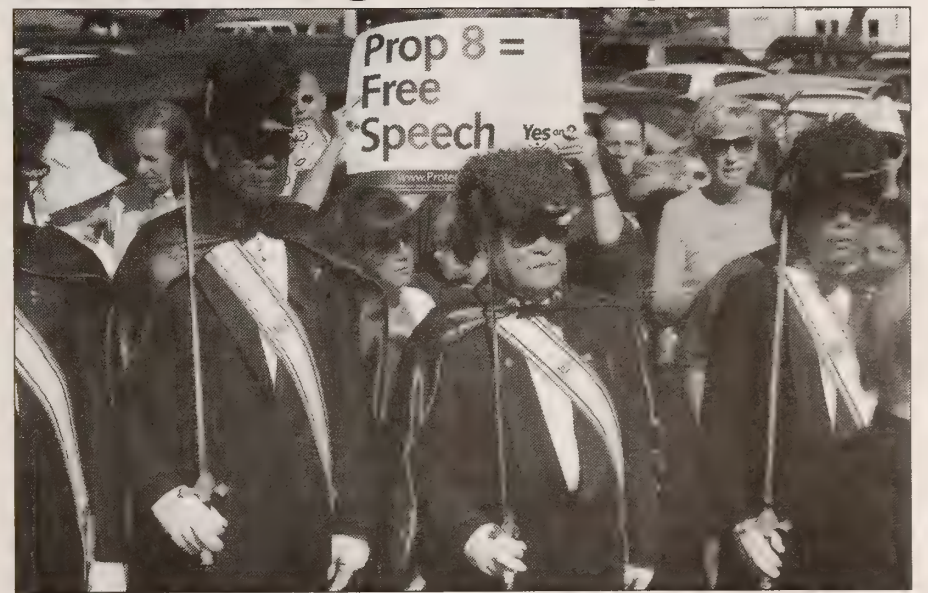
of the 1937 encyclical "With Burning Concern," which condemned the racism and paganism of the Nazi regime. The text was written by Pope Pius XI, but with assistance from his secretary of state, then-Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli — elected two years later as Pope Pius XII — whose margin notes are clearly visible.

The exhibit opened as an international debate continued over the late pope's actions during the war. Some Jewish groups have said he did little to mobilize the church in defense of Jews, while other experts have gathered evidence to show he worked quietly but effectively to save the lives of thousands of Jews.

Msgr. Walter Brandmuller, president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, told a press conference that the exhibit should help demonstrate that "the accusations against (Pope Pius XII) cannot be based on historical research, which ever more convincingly demonstrates how groundless they are."

Much of the Vatican exhibit presents a human side of the pope, including his early years as a boy in a neighborhood not far from the Vatican. The exhibit runs to Jan. 6.

Defending marriage



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE BLAKE, REUTERS

Members of the Knights of Columbus arrive at a rally in support of Proposition 8 at a football stadium in San Diego Nov. 1. Californians approved Proposition 8, defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, overturning a recent California court decision legalizing gay marriage.

Vatican, Botswana establish full diplomatic relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and Botswana established full diplomatic relations Nov. 4, raising to 177 the number of countries that exchange ambassadors with the Vatican.

A Vatican statement said that although just over 5 percent of Botswana's 1.6 million people are Catholic, good relations exist between the government and the Catholic Church.

"The church is particularly involved in assistance to the sick and orphans, in the prevention of disease and in opening

new schools," the statement said.

Botswana enjoys a stable, multiparty democracy, but a high percentage of its people are living with the HIV virus.

The Vatican said Catholic missionaries first arrived in the southern African country in 1850, but opened their first school and mission only in 1928.

Currently, the country has one diocese and one apostolic vicariate, 27 diocesan priests, 38 parishes, 40 religious-order priests, four religious brothers, 77 sisters and about 300 lay catechists.

Catholic Church ends funding to ACORN

CCHD funds suspended over financial irregularities

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — ACORN is no longer receiving funding from the Catholic Church.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, commonly known as ACORN, came under scrutiny during the 2008 presidential election campaign for its voter registration practices.

However, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) had already suspended funding for ACORN after it was disclosed in June that nearly \$1 million had been embezzled.

The decision to suspend funding was because of ACORN's financial irregularities, not its voter registration activities, according to Ralph McCloud, executive director of CCHD, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty and social justice program.

"We're not funding them at any level," McCloud told Catholic News Service Oct. 15.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, a special collection for CCHD will take place during the Nov. 22-23 weekend Masses.

Mary Jane Bruton, diocesan director for CCHD, said the diocesan 2007 collection raised \$198,962 from the 92 parishes and missions of the diocese.

Of that total, \$45,015 was given to groups within the diocese. Bruton said no local funds were given to ACORN and that the Diocese of Charlotte has never directly funded a local ACORN organization.

In urging continued support for CCHD, Bruton said, "The Catholic Campaign for Human Development enjoys wide support across the country from people who have seen its effectiveness in their own dioceses."

"They have seen the results in self-sufficiency, stronger families and people rising above poverty with resources found within their own communities," she added.

The suspension by the national CCHD covers all 40 ACORN affiliates nationwide that had been approved for \$1.13 million in grants for the funding cycle that started July 1, 2008.

McCloud said the suspension had come soon after his office learned ACORN disclosed that Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke, had embezzled nearly \$1 million from the organization and its

affiliates in 1999 and 2000.

Dale Rathke stepped down from his position with the organization in June when the matter became public; no charges were filed against him. Wade Rathke stepped down as the group's lead organizer at the same time but remains chief organizer for ACORN International LLC.

Traditionally drawn to causes usually backed by Democrats, the 38-year-old organization has conducted organizing campaigns in low- and moderate-income communities on issues such as unemployment, affordable housing, predatory lending, health care, minimum wage and living wage, and immigration.

ACORN also has conducted voter registration drives throughout its history by hiring canvassers to go door to door and to visit public sites where people gather.

The organization has more than 1,200 chapters in 110 cities, according to its Web site.

Auxiliary Bishop Roger P. Morin of New Orleans, who chairs the U.S. bishops' CCHD subcommittee, said in a mid-October letter to his fellow bishops that a task force has been formed as part of a multipronged effort designed to ensure that church funds are being spent for projects that are consistent with CCHD guidelines.

In his letter, Bishop Morin said the task force's efforts have included:

— Contracting with forensic accounting experts to determine if any CCHD money was taken or misused;

— A meeting of CCHD officials, USCCB representatives and Bishop Morin with ACORN leaders to "express serious concerns and to seek answers to specific questions";

— And consulting with CCHD diocesan directors to review the work of ACORN locally, reviewing the relationship between diocesan directors and the group's local affiliates, and assessing the quality and impact of the group's work in low-income communities.

"The current halt of ACORN funding means that no CCHD funds are involved in any of these activities," Bishop Morin said in his letter.

The CCHD subcommittee will convene to discuss its findings during the U.S. bishops' meeting Nov. 10-13 in Baltimore, Md.

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

Newly elected



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Standing with Bishop Peter J. Jugis are newly elected members of the bishop's presbyteral (priests') council, which met at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Nov. 4. The council is comprised of priests of the Diocese of Charlotte with whom the bishop consults concerning policies and major decisions in the governance of the local church.

Pictured (from left) are Father Ray Williams, treasurer, and pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva; Father Wilbur Thomas, chairman, and pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; Bishop Jugis; and Father Johnathan Hanic, secretary, and pastor of St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden.

Not pictured is Father Philip Scarcella, vice chairman, and pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte.

Sisters of service



COURTESY PHOTO

Sisters of St. Joseph serving in North Carolina are pictured at Our Lady of Mercy Convent in Winston-Salem Oct. 25. The Sisters met for a pre-chapter planning meeting before attending the congregation's upcoming general chapter meeting, which will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., in June 2009.

Pictured (from left): Sister Catherine Michael Fee, Sister Helene Nagle, Sister Judith Monahan, Sister Geraldine Rogers, Sister John Christopher Tate, Sister Emma Yondura, Sister Ann Thomas Taylor, Sister Jeane Morgan, Sister Janis McQuade and Sister Joan William Pearson.

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THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

The brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor stand in front of their house in Monroe Nov. 3. The mission in Monroe is the first MOP mission in the United States. Pictured (from left) are Brothers Rodel Tabanao, Nowel Rebamonte, Paulo Gudoy and William Samad.

MOP brothers make home in Monroe to serve poor

MOP, from page 1

their founder, Father HoLung, who was one of the speakers at the Diocese of Charlotte's Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 3-4.

After the congress, Father HoLung stayed for a week to help the brothers get settled into their new home behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The house was blessed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Oct. 29.

"They rejoice to pour themselves out in service to the poor," said Bishop Jugis, who invited the brothers to establish a mission in the diocese.

"They find the crucified Christ in the persons of the suffering poor, the homeless, the disabled, the orphans, the sick, the destitute, and they share the joy of Christ with them," the bishop said.

"Our work is really to attend to the needs of the less fortunate," said Brother Rodel Tabanao. "We believe that we can find the least of our brothers and sisters even here in Monroe."

The brothers are still in the process of assessing the needs of the local community, and also are looking for a property where they can establish their outreach ministry.

"We are planning to establish our monastery so that we can have a place of prayer, a place of reflection and study for the brothers and also for those who will be joining us from this area," said Brother Rodel.

Also on the agenda is learning how to speak Spanish so that the brothers can reach out to the large Hispanic population in Monroe.

The brothers have already made their mark at Our Lady of Lourdes Church by providing musical accompaniment at the Saturday vigil Masses in the trademark MOP Caribbean style.

"Because of music, we have been able to sustain our ministry," said Brother Rodel.

"It is really an inspiration from the Lord," he said of the songs, which are written by Father HoLung.

One unique aspect of being part of a newly established religious order is the direct contact the brothers have with

their founder. "There is a father and son relationship that I think all of us have felt," said Brother Rodel.

"It's a great privilege to live with the founder," he said, adding that the close relationship gives the brothers a better understanding of Father HoLung's vision for their order.

Since the order was founded in 1981, it has grown to include more than 500 brothers who take vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and free service to the poor.

Brother Rodel and Brother Paulo Gudoy have made their final profession of vows.

Brother Paulo said he was first introduced to the missionaries of the poor when he was in Catholic school in the Philippines. He admired the simple lifestyle of the brothers. As a brother, he said, he has "truly experienced the joy of being with the Lord."

"The community life, the prayer life and the works among the poor are really what sustain me to serve the Lord," said Brother Paulo. "No one can take that joy from me."

The other two brothers, Brother Nowel Rebamonte and Brother William Samad, are in the temporary stage of their vows and will take final vows in 2013.

Although the transition to life in the United States has gone relatively smoothly, it has not been without its challenges. One thing all of the brothers said they miss is the close-knit community with their brothers in Jamaica.

"In Jamaica we had at least 100 brothers coming together for meals, for prayer, for worship, for work and for recreation," said Brother Rodel.

They also miss their work, he said.

In Jamaica the brothers worked with AIDS patients, and handicapped children and adults.

"Being here, we don't see that kind of poverty," said Brother Rodel.

But the brothers are making every effort to make their presence known in the community.

They have started visiting nursing homes and making house calls, especially in some of the poor Hispanic neighborhoods.

They have also taken on the task of providing and serving meals at the community shelter on the fourth Sunday of each month.

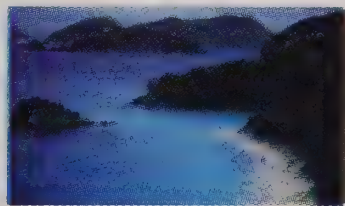
"We have a lot of friends in North Carolina who have been to Jamaica," said Brother Rodel. "I think that is part of our appreciation for the diocese."

"We have come here to offer our services, because not all can come to Jamaica," he said. "We will try to bring what we have in Jamaica and establish it here. It may not be the same poverty as what we had there, but it will be the same spirit of MOP."

"Father HoLung has said, 'We are God's love of the poor in the world,'" said Bishop Jugis. "The Missionaries of the Poor will help us in our diocese open our eyes to the poor and the rejected living right here among us, and inspire us to serve them with devoted Christ-like love."

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PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Augustinian Father Liam Tomás O'Doherty blesses Javier Ramirez, one of 13 Hispanic lay missionaries from St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville Nov. 2.

Lay missionaries to evangelize in Hispanic community

MISSIONERS, from page 1

Ramirez has been visiting Haywood County's Hispanic residents on his own for the past year. It's a major endeavor, especially for someone with a family and a busy job with a landscaping service.

So, at the 5 p.m. Spanish-language Mass at the church Oct. 19, Ramirez invited others to join him. Twelve people accepted the invitation.

Like the others who volunteered, Brenda Arroyo wants to evangelize "so we all know what God's plan is for us and to build more community."

The following Sunday, Oct. 26, Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, conducted training for the new volunteers.

Bernal and two men engaged in similar work at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva led role-playing exercises to show the new missionaries what to expect during home visits.

After the 5 p.m. Mass Nov. 2, Augustinian Father Liam Tomás O'Doherty called the missionaries to the foot of the altar and commissioned them, as the rest of the congregation extended their hands in blessing.

"There are four groups that are going out to Waynesville, Clyde, Canton, and Bethel," said Brenda Arroyo, 25. "We're going to go out to let people know where the church is, what the services are."

"As far as I know, this is completely from the people," Father O'Doherty said later. "It's not something the priests thought of."

Father O'Doherty, in residence at the Augustinians' Blessed of Lecceto Friary at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, is being tutored in Spanish by Ramirez.

The missionary work starting here has been done in other parts of the

diocese, Arroyo said, but this is the first time it has been attempted in Haywood County.

"We just want the people in the Hispanic community to get involved," said Rocio Quintero, 17, a high school student.

"This is also to help keep people informed about things we're doing, like baptisms and pre-Cana conferences," she said.

The first visit is to get acquainted, said Arroyo, who graduated from Belmont Abbey College last year.

On subsequent visits, "We read Scripture or pray the rosary," she said.

Once visitors become better acquainted with the missionaries, "they begin to tell us their needs. If we go to visit them, they'll feel that someone cares about them," said Arroyo.

"Other (non-Catholic) churches are the ones that go to see them," Quintero said.

The missionaries want to change that and encourage Hispanic people, most of whom are Catholic, to return to active involvement in their Catholic faith.

And Arroyo worries about the migrant workers, who "don't have anyone to visit them."

But how can they find out where the people are? One way is simply to become acquainted with the people one encounters every day.

"Just going to stores, I see people I've never seen before," Quintero said. "In school I can ask them if they have other family members and we grow from there."

About 130 adults and children, most of them Hispanic, attend the 5 p.m. Spanish-language Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church. The missionaries intend to devote themselves to increasing that number.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

Catholic parishes help build Habitat house

80 Catholic volunteers contribute 900 hours to project

ASHEVILLE — A new Habitat for Humanity house in Asheville was made possible in part by several Catholic parishes.

The 10th "interfaith Habitat house" was financed and built by 10 Asheville-area faith communities, including four Catholic parishes — St. Barnabas Church in Arden, the Basilica of St. Lawrence and St. Eugene Church in Asheville, and St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

About 80 Catholic volunteers contributed approximately 900 hours to the project, which began Aug. 19 and concluded Oct. 24. A prayer service was held at the house Oct. 22.

"All participants experienced a

"All participants experienced a great sense of accomplishment ..."

— Dan Brown

great sense of accomplishment as they saw their work project come out of the ground," said Dan Brown, Habitat volunteer coordinator for St. Eugene Church.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is a Habitat for Humanity house in Asheville that was built by 10 area faith communities, including four Catholic parishes.

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IN THE NEWS

Forum may open new chapter in Catholic-Muslim relations

FORUM, from page 1

history of Catholic-Muslim relations.

French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, gave interviews in early November to Vatican Radio and to the French Catholic newspaper La Croix.

He told Vatican Radio that the Nov. 4-6 meeting with representatives of the 138 Muslim scholars who began the Common Word initiative in 2007 would give participants an opportunity to explain their faiths through their understanding of the commandments to love God and to love one's neighbor.

While theological points underlie the discussion, "properly speaking, one cannot say that we have a theological dialogue," he said in the Nov. 3 interview with Vatican Radio.

Rather, he said, the Vatican's dialogues with Muslims have focused on ethical questions, spirituality and joint action on behalf of the suffering.

He told La Croix Nov. 2: "At the moment theological dialogue has not really begun. We will see with the Forum, when we will speak of the love of God, how far we can go together."

"What is important is to know the theological thinking of the other" and to share the riches that come from our respective religious traditions, he said.

The second day of the meeting is expected to focus on human dignity and mutual respect, and Cardinal Tauran said he hoped that would be an opportunity for the Vatican to voice its concerns about

"The questions is how do we get these real openings we have with the elite to filter down to the masses."

— Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran

the limits on freedom of conscience and religious practice Catholics face in some Muslim countries.

Cardinal Tauran said it is natural to want reciprocity and to believe that the freedom that is good for Muslims in Europe, for example, would be good for Christians in the Middle East.

"But beware," he said, "the principle of reciprocity is not a prerequisite for dialogue; this is not the logic of 'Do ut des' (I give so that you will give). That would be anti-Christian."

Instead, he said, ensuring respect for each other's beliefs and rights is something that results from gradually changing attitudes.

While several high-level initiatives give hope that changes will take place, the cardinal said, "the problem is that these initiatives of dialogue seem very hit-and-miss compared to the daily stories of anti-Christian violence in several countries."

"The question is how do we get these real openings we have with the elite to filter down to the masses," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, VIA REUTERS

A cardinal looks at a religious book with a Muslim scholar during the Catholic-Muslim Forum at the Vatican Nov. 4. French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said he hoped the meeting would open "a new chapter" in a long history of Catholic-Muslim relations. Seated in back right is Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington.

Catholics, Muslims gather in Indiana for annual Midwest dialogue

CROWN POINT, Ind. (CNS) — In a first for the Diocese of Gary, Catholics and Muslims gathered there for the annual Midwest Muslim-Catholic Dialogue Oct. 26-28.

They met at Catholic and Islamic institutions to engage in interreligious dialogue because, as its mission statement declares, the dialogue "is part of our core identity as people of faith."

Representatives from several states and the District of Columbia attended a series of scholarly sessions and public sessions dealing with such issues as religious freedom, religion in the public square and immigration, as well as an analysis of the American legal structure as it relates to Islamic law.

Joan Crist, director of the Gary diocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, said the purpose of the dialogue, started in 1996, is to "create understanding between our two religions."

Sessions were held at the Northwest Indiana Islamic Center in Crown Point, Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting and the Gary Diocese's pastoral center in Merrillville. The schedule allowed time for the five daily prayers of Islam and for Masses and Catholic prayer services.

Gary Bishop Dale J. Melczek, offering a welcome Oct. 26 at the Islamic center, said that in the past year leaders from both faiths have made public efforts toward making peace between the two groups.

Noting that Christians and Muslims comprise 55 percent of the world's population, the bishop quoted from a Muslim letter that stated: "If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace."

Quoting from the Quran, the sacred

book of Islam, the bishop noted that "without giving the neighbor what we ourselves love, we do not truly love God or the neighbor." He likened that to the apostle James, who wrote: "My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it?"

The bishop also quoted from Catholic bishops in Africa who said that although Catholics and Muslims hold some similar fundamental religious values — the need for prayer, the uniqueness of God and the importance of almsgiving, fasting and pilgrimages — bigotry, intolerance, militarism and fundamentalism by a tiny minority are the main sources of conflict.

While these bishops acknowledged these challenges, Bishop Melczek said, "they urged that we place the difficulties in the hands of God and move forward with a spirit of hope."

In his welcome, Imam Mongy el Quesny, the Islamic center's spiritual leader, listed some of the religious figures both faiths hold in common, including Noah, Moses, Jacob, Joseph, Benjamin, Aaron and John the Baptist.

"Let us come together for a common word," the imam said, and that word is justice.

He added that Christians and Muslims both have lived in this country for a long time, but he said it was not until he spent some time in New York that he experienced tension between the two groups.

He prayed the dialogue would help the two groups "bring all the issues that can bring us together."

He also prayed that God would give dialogue participants knowledge and compassion to "lead to a straight path to God ... and forgive any mistakes we made in this life."

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Rallying the vote



COURTESY PHOTO

Students take part in a voting rally at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Nov. 3. The rally, conducted by students in kindergarten through second-grade, stressed the importance of voting. Students in grades three through eight took part in a mock presidential election Nov. 4.



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders are pictured in front of a voting booth constructed by parents at St. Matthew School in Charlotte Nov. 3. The booth, which allowed students to vote on a Web site and then monitor the national pre-election outcome online, was part of a school-wide civics lesson on the importance of voting. Also pictured are Debra Lee, school librarian, and Jessica Armstrong, third-grade teacher.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders Maureen Wilkinson and Caroline Maier raise the American flag during a pre-Election Day prayer service at St. Michael School in Gastonia Nov. 3. A general prayer was offered that those elected to public offices will be guided by God to serve the United States in a religious and patriotic way.

Catholic leaders congratulate

ELECTION, from page 1

you strength and wisdom to meet the coming challenges," he said.

But he also said, "We stand ready to work with you in defense and support of the life and dignity of every human person."

In Nov. 5 statements, blog postings and other comments, Catholic leaders praised Obama for his history-making victory. Some said the Democrat's win "best reflected" Catholic values "of hope, personal responsibility and care for the common good."

But others, including Catholic bishops, said they hoped the new administration would make decisions that show a "commitment to the sanctity and dignity of all human life."

Still other Catholics, including pro-life leaders, expressed profound disappointment that a candidate who supports abortion rights was elected and vowed that the pro-life movement would grow in strength.

Catholic response

In his letter to Obama, released by the USCCB in Washington, Cardinal George said that "the country is confronting many uncertainties. We pray that you will use the powers of your office to meet them with a special concern to defend the most vulnerable among us and heal the divisions in our country and our world."

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said in a statement: "We offer our prayers today for our nation and for our newly elected leaders, including President-elect Obama, as they take on their new responsibilities."

"We rejoice with the rest of our nation in the significance" of Obama's victory, Archbishop Wuerl said. "May our nation's new leaders be guided in their decisions with wisdom and compassion and at the heart of all of their decisions may there be a deep respect for and commitment to the sanctity and dignity of all human life and support for the most vulnerable among us."

"My hope and prayer is that our new president will truly treasure and advance the principles that make us who we are as a great nation," said Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh in a letter to Catholics in his diocese.

"As he spoke to the nation for the first time, our newly-elected president offered a litany of hopes for our country. To each of those hopes, the crowd gathered responded: 'Yes we can!' May that litany also include 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,'" Bishop Zubik said.

Patrick Whelan, president of Catholic Democrats, said his organization "is thrilled that Sen. Obama has been elected to the highest office in the land today, and that Sen. Biden will be our first Catholic vice president."

He added that his group "argued all along" that Obama and Biden "were the candidates that best reflected our Catholic values of hope, personal responsibility and care for the common good."

He said the two Democrats also "best addressed the issues of meeting our energy needs, feeding our families, ensuring access to quality health care, promoting peace and prosperity, and restoring the progress that was made against abortion during the 1990s."

"I am sure, like me, you are disappointed with tonight's results," said a posting on the Catholics for McCain Web site by Billy Valentine, a student at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, in Ohio, and president of Catholic Students for McCain.

Valentine said the Web site will "most likely change in name and become more of a grass-roots issue-advocacy group. We will also start tracking key 2010 races to make sure we elect pro-lifers in key races."

However, he noted that "for the nine different political races I have seriously been involved in over the past two years, only one has resulted in victory. It is tough to take. It is not easy."

He also exhorted readers, "Continue to pray. Continue to be involved. Continue to fight for the unborn."

Life concerns

Father Frank Pavone, national

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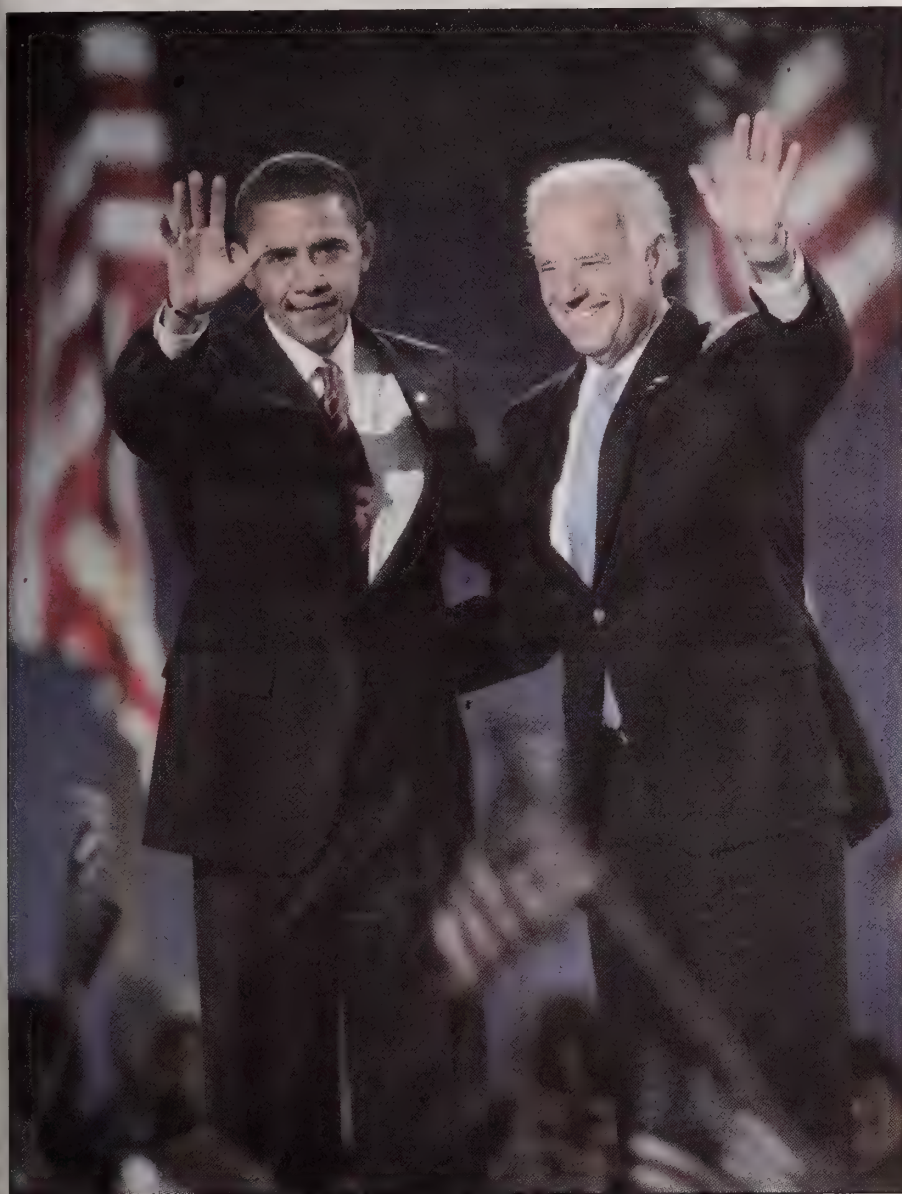
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CNS PHOTO BY GARY HERSHORN, REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joseph Biden wave after Obama's speech during their election night rally in Chicago Nov. 4.

director of Priests for Life, said in a statement the electorate made "a grave mistake," pointing to a comment Obama made during the campaign that the priest paraphrased by saying that "he does not know when a human being starts to have human rights."

"Governing is about protecting human rights; to do it successfully, you have to know where they come from, and when they begin. The president-elect has already failed that test miserably," Father Pavone said, adding that the pro-life movement will grow in strength.

"We will keep marching toward that

pro-life America we seek, and won't stop until we get there," he said.

In a posting on dotCommonweal, a blog run by the Catholic magazine Commonweal, journalism professor Paul Moses said: "John F. Kennedy blazed the trail for Catholics. But it has taken nearly 50 years for another Catholic to follow him to victory on a national ticket," with Biden winning the vice presidency.

He noted that Biden, whose hometown is Scranton, Pa., "had to weather some serious criticism from bishops about his views on abortion — and his bad theology on the subject."

Pope sends congratulatory message to Obama

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI sent a personal message to President-elect Barack Obama Nov. 5, congratulating him and offering his prayers for Obama and for all the people of the United States.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said that because the message was addressed personally to Obama the Vatican did not plan to publish it.

However, he said, the papal message opened by referring to the "historic occasion" of the election, marking the first time a black man has been elected president of the United States.

The pope congratulated Obama, his wife and family, Father Lombardi said.

"He assured him of his prayers that God would help him with his high responsibilities for his country and for the international community," Father Lombardi said.

The pope also prayed that "the blessing of God would sustain him and the American people so that with all people of good will they could build a world of peace, solidarity and justice," the spokesman said.

Asked if the pope mentioned any specific issues he was concerned about, Father Lombardi responded, "peace, solidarity and justice."

The message to Obama was sent through the office of Mary Ann Glendon, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, he said. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, also sent a message.

Father Lombardi said it is likely a

formal message also will be sent on the occasion of Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration; in past years, the Vatican custom has been that the pope congratulates a new U.S. president only when he formally takes office.

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, was published Nov. 5 with an opinion piece headlined "A choice that unites."

"In the end, change occurred. The slogan that accompanied Barack Obama's whole electoral campaign found its expression" in the results of the Nov. 4 election, said the article by Giuseppe Fiorentino.

"As the president-elect underlined in his victory speech in Chicago, America really is the country where anything can happen," a country "able to overcome fractures and divisions that not long ago seemed impossible to heal," it said.

But, the article said, the vote for Obama was "very pragmatic" because he was the "more convincing" candidate for "an electorate needing new hope, especially for a quick economic recovery."

The newspaper said Obama and his supporters know "not everything is roses and flowers," because of the "huge political, social, economic and moral challenges" the United States is facing.

Obama must unite the nation, a process *L'Osservatore* said will be helped by the concession speech of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who referred to Obama as "my president."

Vatican Radio called the election of Obama a "historic day" for the United States and underlined the overwhelmingly positive reaction around the world.

Despite Scranton Bishop Joseph F. Martino's condemnation of the Obama-Biden ticket because of its support for abortion and "Catholics who supported it," Moses said that there, "as in the nation, a majority of Catholics" supported the winning ticket.

"It would appear from the pre-election polls that more than half of American Catholics voted for Barack Obama. How could they do that when their bishops ordered them to vote for John McCain?" said priest-sociologist Father Andrew Greeley in a column in the Chicago Sun-Times daily newspaper.

"In fact, no such order was issued, though some bishops came pretty close to it," he said.

"Some bishops and priests argue that abortion is such a horrible evil that there can be no proportionate reason" to vote for a candidate who supports legal abortion, Father Greeley said.

He argued that view "goes beyond Catholic ethical demands" and said opposition to abortion doesn't "exhaust the moral obligations of the Catholic social ethic. ... Catholics must strive to persuade others by the depth and power of their commitment to life issues."

The work ahead

Chris Korzen, executive director of Catholics United, said his organization

will now work "to advance some key legislation with the new administration and the new Congress."

Top priorities include a plan to reduce abortions, as proposed by Obama, the Employee Free Choice Act and universal health care, all of which Korzen called significant justice issues.

Catholics United describes itself as a nonpartisan organization that promotes justice and the common good as expressed in Catholic social teaching.

"We have work to do," said American Life League president Judie Brown.

"I think it's time for the pro-life movement to focus on personhood and stop accommodating the Republican Party. We have to unify around personhood," she said. "We're now waiting for those who have resisted (the idea of personhood for the unborn) to finally decide that maybe they were wrong."

Jack Smith, editor and general manager of *The Catholic Key*, newspaper of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., simply posted Psalm 145 on his newspaper's blog. It says: "I will praise your name, my king and my God."

He reminded readers in whom they should have trust — regardless of who won the election.

Contributing to this report were Mark Pattison and Dennis Sadowski.

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REVIEWED BY BIRAN WELTER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Father Gerard Sloyan's "Jesus: Word Made Flesh" and "Jesus: A Portrait" by Jesuit Father Gerald O'Collins offer complementary rather than competing discussions on Jesus.

Both are demanding, scholarly authors; Father Sloyan closely analyzes the New Testament account of Jesus, while Father O'Collins starts with theology before turning to the biblical evidence.

Father O'Collins offers a faith-based approach that often reads like a Sunday homily, making the book slightly more accessible than Father Sloyan's.

He has a sense of the Jesus of faith for whom Christians hunger. He therefore takes a liberal approach with filling in the gaps in the record on Jesus' life.

"Jesus embodied the message of the divine kingdom before preaching it," Father O'Collins writes. "His life at Nazareth expressed in advance the hidden, humble quality of the kingdom."

At this point, he turns to Scripture to find something specific.

Father O'Collins loves to think about the kinds of experiences Jesus must have had. He takes the interesting viewpoint that we can learn about Jesus' early life from the parables, so many of which were agricultural.

Jesus would have witnessed repeatedly and at close range the workings of vineyards and winemaking, sowing and harvesting, and even dishonest management of these operations, as attested to by one of his parables.

This simplicity came through more generally in Jesus' personality and the "hereness and nowness" of his approach. Jesus did not concern himself with history or old feuds, but with the lives of the people he met every day.

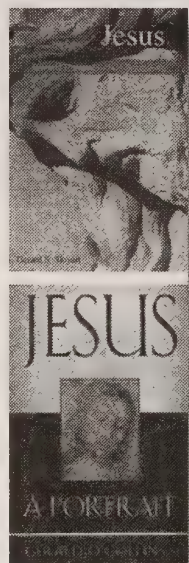
His language was "earthly" and therefore accessible to the poor, illiterate people who followed him.

Father O'Collins manages to keep his focus on an intimate portrayal of Jesus that is nonetheless faithful to the church's teachings and to the biblical account.

His faith-based approach allows him to be pastoral with the reader, including the following zinger, which is more about Jesus' followers (and potential followers) than about Jesus himself: "I continue to suspect that it is the significance rather than the fact of these miracles which poses a problem for some or even many people."

Father Sloyan gets his theology about Jesus from a much closer reading of the New Testament witness than Father O'Collins, and this can at times bog things down.

Rather than presenting a coherent



vision of Jesus, which is most helpful in the case of Father O'Collins, he gives a coherent vision of the New Testament writings.

In fact, the book is more about the New Testament and how we can interpret its various writings than it is about Jesus. The reader will probably be closer to the Bible at the end of the reading, but not necessarily closer to Christ.

The book does offer some thoughts that can help us more deeply understand Jesus at a personal level, though this closely follows the New Testament perspective, as in the discussion of the Gospel of Mark: "His (Jesus') business was to proclaim God his father, not himself or the redemptive act, if indeed he knew anything of it beforehand."

The author has interesting things to say about Paul's vision of Jesus. This is a refreshing discussion, as Father Sloyan pushes the reader none too gently past the 1970s' Jesus-is-your-best-friend spirituality, and invokes the view of "Christ now in glory with the Father, with whom every baptized member in all the churches is in an intimate personal relation."

Father Sloyan holds doctorates in both theology and Scripture, so he naturally bases his theology on a close reading of the various biblical Greek writings.

This makes for very energetic scholarship and advanced theology, as at a third-year university level. But it doesn't offer much to those who don't have a more basic training in the Bible or theology.

In this case, the more pastoral and freely written book by Father O'Collins does the trick.

Welter is a freelance contributor to the B.C. Catholic, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, British Columbia, and is studying for his doctorate in systematic theology.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 16, 2008

Nov. 16, Twenty-third
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 128:1-5
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Making the most of God's gifts in our lives

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

What a curious bunch of Scriptures. Each of them would be meat for a session of "lectio divina," prayerful contemplation and mulling of each line of each passage.

But taken together? Hmm.

The obvious praise of the value of a good — no, make that excellent — wife in the Proverbs passage can't be passed up, especially as I approach the 40th anniversary of my marriage to my own excellent wife. She is a blessing to me in every way.

The references to industriousness are applicable. She is a hard worker at home and in her job as a teacher of English as a Second Language.

And that's only one environment in which "she reaches out her hand to the poor," something she has done her whole life. She is indeed "an unfailing prize."

Thessalonians and Matthew point to our need to remain vigilant concerning the Lord's return and his expectations that we will be both faithful and fruitful. Both suggest that any of us who want to wait about our situations or lack of resources or hard luck, ought to think again.

God expects us to do the best we can with what we have.

All these images and admonitions, taken together, bring to mind a close friend of ours who seems to fit those Proverbs 31 descriptions of the excellent wife. But only recently, in her long and somewhat tortuous life, has she found the counterpart of an excellent husband.

The meager resources that life handed her — the equivalent of the one talent — she invested wisely, turning a skill into a successful business that has allowed her to travel widely and support quite generously not only her aging mother, but also many Catholic charities and ministries.

Her example indeed makes all these seemingly disparate Scriptures hang together, telling a story for the rest of us, an edifying one, that would have us turn our eyes to the Lord to confirm the first line of the Psalm for this week: "Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!"

Questions:

Do you know someone who seems to have persevered and overcome great odds while living a godly life? What can you do to make the most of God's gifts in your own life?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 9-15

Sunday (The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome), Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; Monday (St. Leo the Great), Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; Tuesday (St. Martin of Tours), Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; Wednesday (St. Josaphat), Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19; Thursday (St. Frances X. Cabrini), Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; Friday, 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; Saturday (St. Albert the Great), 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 16-22

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30; Monday, Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; Tuesday (The Dedication of St. Peter and St. Paul Basilicas in Rome, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne), Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; Wednesday, Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; Thursday, Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; Friday (The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary), Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; Saturday (St. Cecilia), Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.

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Stories of 'secret sisters' shared with those who helped

Commitment comes to life in television documentary

BY PATRICIA BARTOS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PITTSBURGH — Theirs is the great untold story of modern Europe — the "secret sisters," who for more than 40 years under communism took their vows, lived out their calling and kept the faith alive, all in isolation and in constant fear of discovery.

The depth of their commitment as part of the underground church will come to life on television screens next year through a documentary in production by NewGroup Media in South Bend, Ind.

Titled "Interrupted Lives: Catholic Sisters Under European Communism," the program is funded in part by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign.

"What strikes me is that we all know about the Holocaust, which lasted for six years, but what about these 43 years of suffering?" asked Sister Margaret Nacke. "No one knows this story."

She and Sister Mary Savoie, both St. Joseph Sisters of Concordia, Kan., have collected some 3,000 oral histories from sisters in eight countries over the last 15 years. The oral histories formed the basis for the documentary and for "Faces of Faith," a traveling exhibit they take to religious communities.

The exhibit can be viewed online at www.csjkansas.org, under "News."

"The sisters show what it was to be faithful to the church and God and to continue their ministry wherever they were," Sister Savoie said.

The documentary "really tells the

story of the Catholic Church under communism and tells how these people are an example for us," she said.

Their stories are stark, dramatic and very moving, telling of sisters imprisoned in concentration camps, sent to hard labor in Siberia, beaten for teaching and practicing the faith.

Earlier this year, 21 sisters from Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine and Poland gathered at the Villa Maria Community Center in Villa Maria, Pa., with some 30 U.S. members of the International Forum for Sisters, formed in the 1990s to respond to the needs of religious communities emerging from the underground.

Sisters in the United States have the support of their community, said Sister Dia Stasiuk of the Basilian order in Lviv, Ukraine, while those living under communism "didn't know who they could trust."

In the early '90s, she said, for the first time since the fall of communism, "the sisters in Ukraine came together, 90 of them, and began recognizing each other. It was 'Oh, you're a sister too?' We knew each other only in small groups, and only by first names, for safety."

The sisters could not even tell their own families of their vocations, for fear of endangering them.

Sister Terez Muranyi took her first vows in secret in 1977 in Romania, as an Eastern Catholic member of the Sisters of Social Service.

"My family did not know anything till 1993," she said.

When the news reached her mother,



CNS PHOTO COURTESY NEWGROUP MEDIA

Videographer Douglas Thomas of NewGroup Media films an actress portraying Sister Anne Lehner, a Sister of Social Service, who escaped from Communist-controlled Hungary into Austria in 1952.

"she was very happy," Sister Muranyi said. "She wanted to become a nun when she was young and was happy that I continued her vocation. I was so happy to invite my parents to my 25th."

Sister Paula Cicos of the Mother of God Sisters in Romania had been a sister for six years, living at home and working in a biological research lab. Approaching her final vows, she told her parents.

"They cried a lot," she said. "It was not easy. They came with me in secret to a house as I took my vows. They gave me a blessing, crying."

The U.S. sisters at the Villa Maria meeting were among more than 200 who helped their East and Central European counterparts by establishing pastoral centers, updating libraries, teaching English and hosting leadership workshops.

They saw the chance for real collaboration and didn't want to lose the relationships they had begun with the European sisters, said Sister Veronica Ternovacz of the Humility of Mary order at Villa Maria, one of

those early volunteers and current head of the International Forum for Sisters.

At the summer gathering they studied together Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), while engaging in dialogue and nurturing new friendships.

Romania's Sister Muranyi participated in the forum from the very beginning.

"We knew a little of our own world but not of the suffering of others," she said. "We knew how to suffer, how to be brave, to pray, but not how to live in community life, how to form young sisters in religious life."

Vincentian Sister Valentyna Ryabushko of Ukraine, at age 26 the youngest sister attending the Villa Maria dialogue, listened eagerly to the stories of the older sisters.

"On my visit here I saw sisters who opened their hearts, who lived under communism through these times," she said. "Our vocations were bought by the price of their faith."

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Week of Nov. 16

TV program notes

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the week of Nov. 16 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.

— Sunday, Nov. 16, 10-11 p.m. EST (EWTN) "Father Justin Figas: Beyond the Airwaves." A documentary look at the life of Father Figas, a Franciscan who was an influential radio personality during the 1930s and '40s.

— Thursday, Nov. 20, 1-2 p.m. EST (EWTN) "Completely Christ's." An inspirational look at the process of discerning a vocation to the religious life; featuring Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India; Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa; Father Benedict Groeschel, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal; and others.

ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For November, here's a look at some "saint sightings" in the Diocese of Charlotte.



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Pictured is St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia in 1958. It was one of several churches in the Diocese of Charlotte to be built through funds provided by St. Katherine Drexel, who toured the churches in 1904.

Father Thomas Price: Ordained in 1886, the "Tar Heel Apostle" was North Carolina's first native-born diocesan priest. He was assigned for a period to serve missions in the N.C. mountains.

In 1892, he climbed Mt. Mitchell and offered Mass at the top for the conversion of North Carolina. Eventually he helped create the American Catholic Foreign Mission Society (also known as Maryknoll) and died in 1919 while serving as a missionary in China.

Father Price's sister, Sister Catherine Price, joined the Sisters of Mercy and was the superior of those stationed in Salisbury where they managed Sacred Heart School.

The canonization cause for Father Price is in its early stages and both the Diocese of Raleigh and Maryknoll are currently compiling information and gathering testimony.

Both the book and the movie, "The Tar Heel Apostle," can be found in the Media Center in the diocesan Pastoral Center.

St. Katherine Drexel: Mother Drexel, canonized Oct. 1, 2000, came to Charlotte March 19, 1904 to tour the churches she helped build using her family inheritance. St. Peter Church in Charlotte, St. Michael Church in Gastonia and Belmont Abbey's basilica are a few of the beneficiaries of her generosity.

St. Katherine was very much ahead of her time in the push for desegregated churches. Both St. Peter Church and the Belmont Abbey Basilica were constructed in 1893 under the condition that at least one pew be reserved for African-Americans.

Servant of God Francis J. Parater: A native of Richmond, Va., Frank Parater discerned God's call to the priesthood while attending Belmont Abbey College seminary in 1917. He became a seminarian of the Diocese of Richmond and was sent to study in Rome at the North American College, where he died in 1920.

He was declared a Servant of God in 2002 by the bishop of Richmond and his cause for canonization is under investigation.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: Archbishop Sheen celebrated Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral March 17, 1974 while visiting Charlotte for a preaching conference. He visited Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Nov. 14, 1976 to give the address at the dedication of the parish activity center.

The diocesan phase of Archbishop Sheen's canonization cause closed February 2007 and is now under the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The Diocese of Charlotte's Media Center has episodes of Archbishop Sheen's TV show, "Life is Worth Living," on both DVD and VHS.

Blessed Mother Teresa: On June 13, 1995, Blessed Mother Teresa visited Charlotte to open a convent and participate in a prayer service at the Charlotte Coliseum.

She met Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin while he was a priest in Washington, D.C. in the 1970s, and the two became life-long friends.

Mother Teresa died Sept. 5, 1997. Her beatification occurred in Rome Oct. 19, 2003.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

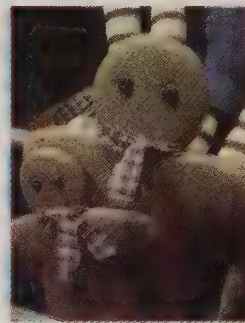
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Saints come alive in schools, churches around diocese



COURTESY PHOTO

Children in the parish faith formation program at Holy Family Church in Clemmons dress as saints during "Saints Alive" Oct. 29. Pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students and their families participated in the event, which included a saints parade, saints bingo and games. All Saints' Day was Nov. 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

First-graders in the parish faith formation program at St. Gabriel Church dress as their favorite saints during an All Saints' Day celebration Oct. 29. All Saints' Day was Nov. 1. The students gave short presentations about the saints to their classmates, teachers and parents.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem dress as their patron saints during an Oct. 31 Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in honor of All Saints' Day, Nov. 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Adrian Porras, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, and Deacon Michael Stout, stand with children in the parish C.A.F.E. (Catholic Association of Family Educators) homeschooling group after Mass Oct. 31. The children dressed as their favorite saints in honor of All Saints' Day Nov. 1.

Halloween fun and learning



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte stand with students in the Language and Learning Stimulation Program during a Halloween party at St. Ann School in Charlotte Oct. 31. The UNC-Charlotte students were taking part in LLSP's Leadership, Communication and Group Dynamics class, which helps the LLSP students develop skills related to leadership and working well in groups.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Are we in danger of losing our heavenly homes?

Amid housing and economic crisis, we have bigger concerns

There's a story about a missionary who, after 40 years in Africa, was heading home aboard a ship with Teddy Roosevelt, who was returning after a three-day safari in Africa.

Roosevelt was welcomed home with a parade. Nobody was on the dock to welcome the missionary, and he later stormed into his bishop's office, demanding to know why.

"Because you're not home yet," the bishop reminded him.

The housing crisis. Foreclosures. People losing their homes. These concerns affect many of us, but like the missionary we forget this life is temporary, that earth is only our temporary home.

Our permanent home, where we will spend eternity, will be either heaven or hell. Yet we seem more concerned about losing our earthly dwellings than we are about losing our permanent homes.

And the choices we make today will affect where we reside in eternity.

Jesus and the church say we are all brothers and sisters. But how do we treat each other? For too many of us, our lives are spent not helping, but putting and keeping others down.

Some of us believe that simply because of one's skin color, a person is inferior and undesirable, his culture backward. Instead of seeing the positives of other cultures, we put them down as primitive and non-contributory to society.

Some of us have higher educations and believe those who do not are less intelligent and inferior. We even rate each other not by our degrees but by the schools from which we obtain them.

Some of us buy houses in particular sections of town, primarily as a status symbol so we can be around those like us. We believe those who live in other sections are a lower class of people.

We even build gates and guarded entrances to our neighborhoods to keep them out; otherwise, our neighborhoods and property values will go down. And when two or more "undesirable" families move in, "for sale" signs go up.

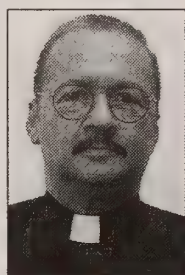
Some of us get high-paying jobs with responsibility and believe our employees are mindless individuals there simply to do our will. We start to believe we are something special, truly deserving of other's respect and honor.

We fail to see how arrogant, egotistical and insufferable we are.

Some of us go to church every Sunday, join commissions and committees, and start believing we are tight with God

Guest Column

DEACON
CURTISS TODD
GUEST COLUMNIST



— certainly head and shoulders above others. We believe those who don't come to church are heathens who will incur the wrath of our God.

Jesus considers each person a child of God. He looks down on no one. In fact, Jesus searched out, ministered to and helped those who the "higher ups" in society considered worthless and undesirable.

Jesus tells us to never put ourselves above anybody else for any reason — regardless of color, economic status, educational achievement, position or title. We are strengthened when we acknowledge our differences yet treat one another as children of God, as brothers and sisters.

Jesus did not have nor seek wealth, high position or a fancy home. His life's purpose was to do God's will and to lead others to heaven; and he calls all of us to do the same.

If we pattern our lives after Jesus — if we mirror his achievements and accomplishments instead of those of sports figures, rock stars, celebrities, politicians and those we put on pedestals — two things will happen.

First, the world will become a better place. Second, we won't be in danger of not getting into heaven.

We are all created in God's image and likeness. God is a spirit; we have our spiritual sides. God is eternal; so are we and we will have eternal life. And where we will spend it depends on how we live.

We must choose, for God does not make us obey. He tells us what is right and wrong, what is his way and what is the devil's. Do we want to get closer to God, or closer to the devil?

Taking the latter path will get us wealth, title, and that expensive home in a certain neighborhood. But it also will put us in great danger of losing our home in heaven.

So ask yourself: "Am I in danger of losing my heavenly home?"

Deacon Todd is a permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

What's essential for the new administration?

Moral vision is essential for economy to serve all people fairly

Once again the airwaves are quiet, blessedly free of the snarling accusations — from taxation to treason — hurled by candidates at every level during an extended campaign season, the length of which approached defining eternity.

Now within this quiet zone, when rational thought can replace election frenzy, the new national administration will be developing the agenda for the country.

There will be talk of "healing," of "coming together," of "engaging in bipartisanship."

The first step may be to define precisely what is meant by unity.

Obviously, by the fact that there are two political parties and three branches of government, the system is meant to function on an adversarial basis. But adversarial does not mean antagonistic.

A starting point is a thought often attributed to St. Augustine: "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

Augustinian or not, it makes sense for a new agenda.

So what is essential?

The dictionary defines "essential" as fundamental; central, absolutely necessary, of the utmost importance, indispensable. The task, then, is to determine those things which we hold to be so important, so absolutely necessary to our understanding of who we are.

That is answered by our faith: the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Everything must be done within that understanding, the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

The value of human life is threatened by abortion, euthanasia, cloning, embryonic stem-cell research and the death penalty.

Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means.

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



of the human person.

The economic system of the United States — if not the primary issue for everyone — definitely ranked high among issues in the election of the president and Congress. With the economy so high on the agenda, a good document to put in the briefcases of the new administration is "Economic Justice for All."

This scripturally based pastoral letter by the U.S. bishops from 1986 is as current as it was then.

"The pre-eminent role of the United States in an increasingly interdependent global economy is a central sign of our times," it said, laying out three pillars of forming an economic policy:

- What does it do for people?
- What does it do to people?
- What does it do to the less well-off?

"Economic Justice for All" is not outdated by the advent of the Internet, NAFTA or financial derivatives on Wall Street. We just have a better way today to accomplish greed, selfishness and an unbalanced accumulation of wealth.

"A critical pillar to market competition and free markets did break down," former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress. "I still do not fully understand why it happened."

Here's a clue: Look to those three pillars proposed by "Economic Justice for All." They are prophetic.

There has been more than enough mindless babble in the last two years leading up to a new administration. The bishops' pastoral has this timely advice: "Strengthening common moral vision is essential if the economy is to serve all people more fairly."

Gratitude for pro-life column

I just wanted to thank Kevin Murray for his touching pro-life column from a victim's perspective ("The most precious of angels," Oct. 31).

It was one of the most beautiful columns I have ever read.

I hope Catholic News Service

Letter to the Editor

reciprocates and distributes it similarly to the way The Catholic News & Herald publishes CNS articles.

— Ray FitzGerald
Huntersville

How to move forward now

Above all else, holiness is needed to effect change, end abortion

More than 30 years ago, the United States entered into one of the most morally-offensive periods of its history.

Since Jan. 22, 1973, when the Supreme Court legalized abortion with *Roe v. Wade*, about 4,000 innocent human beings have been legally slaughtered each day in our country.

The fight to defend the rights of these innocent persons has been driven primarily by lay Catholics since the very beginning.

Catholic Church leaders have always taught that the killing of an innocent, unborn child is morally reprehensible and intrinsically evil.

The U.S. bishops, particularly in their documents "Living the Gospel of Life" and "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," have attempted to guide Catholics to know and understand not only the teaching — but the absolute moral imperative — that we have to legally protect and defend the unborn.

While we have most recently seen some very clear teaching on the distinctions of intrinsic evils, and the hierarchy of degrees of gravity among intrinsic evils, many people are still unclear that we are all called to actively oppose the preeminent intrinsic evil of abortion and infanticide, and the variants of those evils, even while other issues may seem to be very important.

For many years it was seen as politically incorrect to speak out forcefully and, as a result, many Catholics have not seen the clear direction, even though it was there to be found.

As a result, with the recent election, our nation now faces the very real possibility that all restrictions on abortion will be eliminated despite that majority opinion that abortions should be rare or nonexistent. The dangers to the unborn have increased.

The very real possibility of the Freedom of Choice Act passing and being signed into law looms large, and the abortion industry, with its very deep pockets, will do everything to bring that about.

Of course, a necessary Freedom of Conscience Act for health care workers is not on the horizon, even though it would assist those who do not want to participate in abortions.

The discouraging reality is that numerous Catholics, many of whom

attend Mass regularly, have voted to empower those who may increase the availability and funding of abortions.

These Catholics have become so confused about the issue that they could not separate the intrinsic evil from other important issues, and they may have justified their votes by using illogical rationalizations.

What are faithful Catholics to do in the face of such confusion and sadness? How do we respond to such a wonton disregard for human life? Should we become politically active? Write letters? March?

These are all perfectly acceptable responses that are necessary to continue the good work faithful Catholics have done to protect the unborn. But will any of them alone bring about the true change that is needed? No.

While engaging in public debate and being active in the defense of the unborn are acceptable and encouraged, one thing in particular must continue and increase. It was the answer I gave to a recent question: "How do we move forward and respond now?" The answer: holiness.

Holiness is not easy. It is not consoling in the typical sense of the word. It is not immediate. It is, however, the ultimate answer to evil.

Work we must, but holiness is the one thing we must increase and which must inspire and animate our work. Only when Jesus is brought into an evil situation will evil depart. Only holiness will begin the change needed in the decaying moral fabric of our country.

No anger nor sadness, violence nor hatred, despair nor disgust will change our land. Only holiness will do, for where there is holiness, there is change.

One saintly individual can have a great impact on the world, and each of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to be holy. Remember the impact that one little woman living in Calcutta, India, had and still has on the world.

Blessed Mother Teresa's life of holiness has inspired many around the world to serve those in dire need. If this one woman could make such a difference, just think if all of us strive to fulfill our baptismal calls to holiness.

So you may ask, "Where does it begin? How do I become holy?" or think, "I'm no saint!"

No we are not saints, but saints we

Guest Column

FATHER
CHRISTOPHER
ROUX

GUEST COLUMNIST



can and must become.

So where do we turn? To our knees before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer, before the priest in confession, before the altar in worthy reception of holy Communion will we begin to become holy.

Also, by studying sacred Scripture and the teachings of our faith, and by putting that knowledge into action in our lives.

If you care about our society's moral decay and want to make a difference, begin anew by living holy lives — we will make an eternal affect on our country. It does not begin with action, it begins with prayer.

Blessed Mother Teresa did not awaken in the morning and simply get to work, nor do her Sisters — the Missionaries of Charity — do so today. Rather, she first attended Mass, then made a holy hour each day.

Then, she prayed the rosary on the way to the different places where she would work. Inspired by and influenced by the love of Jesus, she encountered him in the streets and served his needs.

It was her closeness to Jesus and Mary, his mother, that caused Mother Teresa to be holy and do the things she did — and thus have an affect on the whole world.

We don't need to spend our whole day on our knees, but rather we should start there and bring that prayer into everything we do. If we truly want to make a change in our society, a change that is of God's design and plan, then we need to strive for holiness.

There is no quick answer to the evil that has gripped our nation for 35 years. When mankind begins to view some individuals as less than human, evil is the result, and the unborn children, innocent in their mothers' wombs, are reduced to non-humans.

This is an evil that requires a change of heart by the people of our nation before it is eradicated, and that is a big task. This is where God comes in.

We can do nothing on our own, but we can "do all things in him who strengthens me."

In our own piece of this great land, we can begin to make a difference by striving toward holiness. Let us resolve today, at this moment, to set aside all political anger and argument and do what we are called to do by Christ — to be holy.

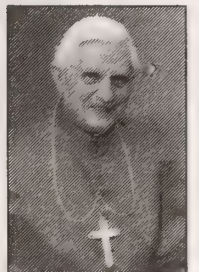
This is the call of the Gospels, and to fulfill this call we will be living and spreading the Gospel of Life.

Father Roux is rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

Pope says experience of suffering needed to understand beauty of life

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The beauty and promise of life cannot be understood without the experience of suffering, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Nov. 5 weekly general audience, the pope focused on St. Paul's emphasis on the resurrection as the key to understanding Christ and the eternal life to which all people are called.

The death and resurrection of Jesus have important consequences for the way Christians are called to live, he said.

"We are called to participate with our whole being in the entire event of the death and resurrection of Christ," Pope Benedict said. "We have, the apostle says, died with Christ, and we believe we will live with him."

The affirmation that those who have been baptized into Christ's death will rise with him implies that there will be suffering, but that suffering and death will not have the last word, the pope said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on the teaching of St. Paul, we now turn to his proclamation of the resurrection.

In preaching Jesus Christ risen from the dead, Paul was concerned to "hand on" what he himself had "received" from the Apostles (cf. 1 Cor 15:3).

He proclaims not only the fact of the resurrection, but its vital significance: in Christ, who died and rose for us, we have been saved, made righteous in the sight of God. The resurrection reveals Jesus' true identity as the eternal Son of God and Lord of the living and the dead.

We, for our part, are called to become fully configured to him in the mystery of his passover from death to life. Our present sufferings thus become a sharing in Christ's own suffering and death, while the hope of the resurrection even now draws us toward the fullness of life with all the saints in his Kingdom.

Salvation, Paul tells us, comes from confessing with our lips that Jesus is Lord, and believing in our hearts that God raised him from the dead (cf. Rom 10:9).

With the Apostle, then, let us strive ever more fully, in faith and hope, "to know Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection" (cf. Phil 3:10).

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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(CNS BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD)

Melissa Lujano and Melissa Meza prepare crosses — which bear the names of people who have been killed — at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Chicago prior to a Mass Oct. 27 to remember victims of violence. As of Oct. 24, the Sun-Times newspaper reported that Chicago posted 426 killings this year, compared with 417 in New York and 302 in Los Angeles.

'To listen with loving care'

As murders mount in Chicago, Mass memorializes victims of violence

BY PAM DeFIGLIO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — As Chicago surpassed New York and Los Angeles for the number of murders this year, Catholics in the city attended an annual memorial Mass for victims of violence at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in the Back of the Yards neighborhood on Chicago's South Side.

Many of those in attendance lost loved ones a few years ago but the pain is still fresh.

Six years after her son was killed, Lucida Montelongo struggles with the loss every day.

"I couldn't cry for the first two years," she recalled. "At first, I wanted to kill. Anger is normal. It's mixed emotions."

"But as time passes by, your emotions change," said Montelongo after the Oct. 27 memorial Mass for victims of violence.

After an assailant shot 26-year-old Arthur Montelongo to death in 2002, Lucida Montelongo lost interest in talking to people and performing the routines of daily life, like running a household. With time, the intensity of the emotions diminished, she said.

But Montelongo, her husband and her four remaining children still wrestle through their grief with tears, a lack of joy in life and what she describes as feeling "emotionally lost."

To cope, she attends monthly healing circles put on by the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, a ministry for offenders, at-risk youths and people who have lost loved ones to violence.

A few days before Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of Chicago came to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to celebrate the annual memorial Mass, the Chicago Sun-Times newspapers reported the city's 2008 murder toll had reached 426 as of Oct. 24, compared with 417 in New York and 302 in Los Angeles.

Before the Mass began, volunteers invited Massgoers to write the names of loved ones lost to violence on 10-inch-tall white wooden crosses.

Precious Blood Father David Kelly, one of the priests who founded the ministry, welcomed participants and said, "The violence has not stopped, but we work for peace."

Bishop Garcia-Siller delivered his homily in Spanish and English. He expressed worry that the nation's economic instability means more violence will occur.

"But we can let Jesus find an answer to it," he said. "Jesus was able to find through his death an answer to life and give us hope, because he knew we would face many moments of death."

More than 200 people listened as he acknowledged his own angry human

reaction when he hears about acts of violence.

"We get tired and angry — we become like the offenders — filled with violence," he said. "I can feel it in myself when I hear these stories, filled with feelings that are not from God. And I have to turn back to God."

"This violence is taking our love, so let us love one another more. Let us pray more and listen more," he said.

After the homily, two young women slowly carried a large wooden cross, about 5 feet high, up the center aisle of the church and positioned it on a black fabric screen placed to one side of the sanctuary.

Congregants filed up to the screen and affixed the small white crosses bearing the names of their lost ones. Many also placed photos of the deceased on display shelves.

Some shed tears and were comforted by relatives; others remained solemn.

After the Mass, Bishop Garcia-Siller praised Precious Blood Ministry's work with survivors, explaining, "We need to listen with loving care to people's stories, and not to judge who was right and who was wrong."

Such caring is very healing for those who have suffered violent loss, he said.

Earlier in October, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia led a holy hour for peace in his city at Christ the King Church in northeast Philadelphia. At the cardinal's urging, similar prayer services took place in other churches throughout the archdiocese.

The cardinal chose to spend the hour at Christ the King Church because it was the home parish of police Sgt. Patrick McDonald, whose funeral Mass he had celebrated there in September.

He was joined by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter along with hundreds of people on their knees "expressing our profound dependency on God," Cardinal Rigali said.

"What cannot be accomplished by our own power, God can accomplish by his. He can build up a city of peace and justice," he said.

"The power of prayer opens hearts and doors to peace in our city. This has been the prayer and aspiration of our hearts this evening," said the cardinal.

Hundreds more joined the cardinal spiritually at 105 parishes across the city, where Catholic churches were opened to remember McDonald and four other police officers killed in Philadelphia in the past two years.

The faithful also remembered the officers' families and prayed for the safety of all police officers and firefighters "who offer up so much for our safety and tranquility," the cardinal said.

Contributing to this story was Nadia Maria Smith in Philadelphia.

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For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Reducing abortions;
imitating St. Francis of
Assisi; prophetic gifts

| PAGES 14-15

NOVEMBER 14, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 3

As pastors and bishops'

bishops cite abortion
regulation fears in
pastoral statement

USCCB issues statements,
authorizes task forces at
annual fall meeting

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

BALTIMORE — Fears
about laws and changes in
regulations on abortion that
might advance under a new
Democratic-run Congress and
White House are the central
focus of a statement approved
by the U.S. Conference of
Catholic Bishops Nov. 12
during its annual fall meeting.

The majority of the 830-
word, untitled statement focuses
on concerns about the possible
passage of the Freedom of
Choice Act, calling it "an evil
law that would further divide
our country" and adding that
the church "should be intent on

See BISHOPS, page 8



PHOTOS BY KATIE MOORE

COME LET US ADORE HIM

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, pictured with Benedictine Father
Agostino Fernandez, sprinkles the congregation with
holy water during a Mass for the blessing of the St. Joseph
Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College Nov. 7.



See CHAPEL, page 5

Making amends

Reconciliation after
election possible, but
expected to take time

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The
Roman Catholic Church's
pastor had fire in her eyes. The
Obama-Biden 2008 campaign
win in Barkley's yard probably
did a lot to do with it.

See ELECTION, page 7

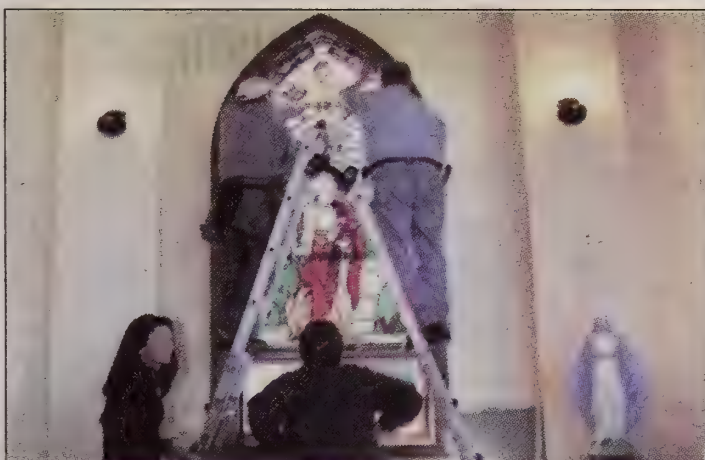


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Michelle Resos (bottom left) and Sister of St. Joseph Diane Couture assist as Tom
Steffel (left) and Birney Humphrey install the first of three stained-glass windows
at St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville Nov. 4.

Windows of the spirit

Stained glass can open people to God,
says artist

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE —
Slowly, carefully, Sister Diane
Couture and Michelle Resos
lifted the stained-glass panel at
St. John the Evangelist Church
in Waynesville.

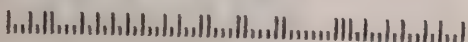
Standing on a ladder,
parishioners Birney Humphrey
and Tom Steffel received the

panel and slid it into place — a
perfect fit. Sunlight glowed
through the colors depicting
St. John the Evangelist, shaded
beneath trees, holding a book
and quill, an eagle at his feet.

Next to go into place: the
top panel that completed the
window's design. On Nov. 4
and 5, the crew also installed

See GLASS, page 4

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The Lord's grace

Roe v. Wade participant now
advocates pro-life cause

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Culture Watch

Talking Bible storybook; Bible's
'Buried Secrets' on PBS

| PAGES 10-11

Scuffle in the Sepulcher

Brawl at ancient church shows
confusion over agreements

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HUMBLE SERVANT



CNS PHOTO BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

Jesuit Father Martin McDermott prays the rosary with migrant workers in the courtyard of St. Joseph Church in Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 19. The U.S. priest, who arrived in Lebanon in 1971, has been serving the migrant community since 2000.

Migrant workers in Lebanon find friend, advocate in American Jesuit

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — For hundreds of Lebanon's Asian and African migrant workers, Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church in Beirut is a respite from a mundane, lonely existence.

There, they have found a spiritual leader, advocate and friend in an American Jesuit.

"The Lord especially loves servants because he came to this world as a servant. Don't ever think that God forgets you. He sees whether you have a generous or stingy employer; whether you have a kind or mean employer," Jesuit Father Martin McDermott said during a recent Sunday homily.

"Pray for them (your employers) always, and offer up your work. Not because they might treat you better but so they may stand better before the Lord. This is called love. You can be the cause of their salvation," he said.

The 75-year-old priest, who has a doctorate in Islamic studies, came to Lebanon in 1971 and has been serving the migrant community full time since he retired in 2000 as director of the Oriental Library at the Jesuit-run St. Joseph University in Beirut.

Lebanon's migrant worker population is estimated at 220,000 to 250,000, the majority of whom are women working as housemaids.

"Most of the employers are not what they should be," Father McDermott told Catholic News Service. "Within the house they have complete power."

Mayline Madamba, 26, from Isabella, Philippines, assists every Sunday at Father McDermott's English Mass, which is always nearly filled to capacity with some 500 migrant workers.

"Working in another country, it's so hard. We are far from our family," said Madamba. "We can always rely on Father Martin. He gives us spiritual and moral support and always enlightens us. He tells us to pray for the people we're working for."

During the 1980s, Father McDermott learned that migrant workers often were treated badly and got into trouble, so he started working with nuns from the Daughters of Charity who were ministering to maids.

The energetic priest now is widely known throughout the migrant community for his advocacy on their behalf. He came upon his first case when he was visited by a Philippine maid who was pregnant after she was raped by her employer, a prominent businessman.

She was being pressured to have an abortion, but refused. Father McDermott found a lawyer to work on her case for free.

The maid named her baby Martin. Father McDermott later heard of at least two more cases in which the same prominent businessman had sexually assaulted maids.

"Unfortunately, there are many flaws in the system," said Father McDermott. "The worst cases we don't hear about, when maids fall out of buildings."

Father McDermott has expanded his migrant worker ministry to Lebanon's prisons. Accompanied by a sister from the Order of Jesus and Mary and a volunteer who plays the guitar and sings, he celebrates Mass at one of four different prisons each week.

"Even in the hardest circumstances you can have deep joy," he often advises the prisoners.

Father Greeley hospitalized after suffering skull fracture in fall

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Andrew Greeley, a Chicago archdiocesan priest who is a well-known sociologist and novelist, was in critical but stable condition Nov. 10 after being hospitalized for a skull fracture.

The Chicago Sun-Times daily newspaper reported that the priest, who is 80, fell to the ground after getting out of a cab Nov. 7.

The paper said his jacket got stuck in the door of the cab and as the cab began to leave he fell. Father Greeley hit his head, suffering a skull fracture.

He was taken to the emergency room at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, where physicians implanted a monitor in his skull "to gauge pressure on his brain," the paper reported.

Roberta Wilk, the priest's assistant at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, told Catholic News Service Nov. 10 his vital signs were good and that two or three hours

after he was admitted to the hospital his condition was upgraded from critical to critical but stable.

Father Greeley is a research associate at the National Opinion Research Center and is a professor of sociology at the University of Arizona, where he teaches one semester a year. He is a respected scholar whose current research focuses on the sociology of religion.

He is the author of more than 50 best-selling novels and more than 100 works of nonfiction; his writing has been translated into 12 languages. In his novels he attempts to convey the wisdom of the love and grace of God operate in the world and the church.

He has received numerous awards, including the 2006 Campion Award given by America magazine on a regular basis to a noted Christian person in letters, and the 1993 U.S. Catholic Award, recognizing him for furthering the cause of women in the church.

Diocesan Planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for parents and grandparents of a deceased child or children will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the Christian Mother's Group will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a child are invited.

to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. If you would like to bring a photo or other memorabilia of a child, tables will be available to place them on when you arrive. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A free performance by the U.S. Navy Band Jazz Ambassadors from Washington, D.C., will take place at Charlotte Catholic High School Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are required for admission. To obtain tickets, send your request along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Navy Jazz Band, 9013 Raintree Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277. For more information, call Stan Michalski at (704) 541-8016.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schulz at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for deceased spouses will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the Women's Club will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a spouse are invited to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host the Park Road Community of Churches annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m. Neighboring churches will be invited to join for prayer, song, Scriptures and a special Thanksgiving message. The gathering will take place in the church. A reception will follow the activity center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — An Opus Dei Recollection for Men will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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NOVEMBER 14, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte, NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

German-born pope says he still feels pain of Kristallnacht

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — German-born Pope Benedict XVI said he still feels “pain for what happened” in his homeland in 1938 when Nazi mobs went on the rampage against Jews, an event that became known as Kristallnacht.

The pope was 11 years old when, on the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, “the Nazi fury against the Jews was unleashed in Germany.”

Marking the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht — German for Night of the Broken Glass — the pope asked Catholics to pray for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and he condemned all forms of anti-Semitism.

Pope Benedict spoke about the anniversary during his midday Angelus address Nov. 9 at the Vatican.

During Kristallnacht throughout Germany “stores, offices, homes and synagogues were attacked and numerous people were killed, initiating the systematic and violent persecution of German Jews that concluded with the Shoah,” or Holocaust, the pope said.

“I still feel pain for what happened in that tragic circumstance whose memory must serve to ensure that similar horrors are never repeated again and that we commit ourselves, at every level, to fighting anti-Semitism and discrimination, especially by educating the younger generations in respect and mutual acceptance,” the pope said.

He also asked Catholics to pray for the victims of the Nazis and “to join me in showing deep solidarity with the Jewish world.”

The obligation to remember the Holocaust and to educate future generations in respect for all peoples also was reaffirmed by the secretary of the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education at a Nov. 6 meeting of European education ministers.

Nov. 14, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession. For more information contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or jremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei Recollection for Women* will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession and Mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m. For more information contact Jemy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or jremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a *Blood Drive* at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-9. Donors can make an appointment at www.bccc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning *Adult Spirituality Series* takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, “Watching and Waiting with Advent Hope: Becoming a New Creation in Christ,” will be held Dec. 1. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by presentation and discussion at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be *Homily Preparation Series* for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 2 p.m. followed by chant mid-day prayer at 2:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

ASTONIA VICARIATE

ASTONIA — All are invited to attend the *Annual Thanksgiving Celebration* at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael’s Lane, the parish center, Nov. 27 from 12-3 p.m. This event is free. Bring your family and friends and join us for wonderful food and fellowship. Transportation is available for anyone who needs a ride. Meal deliveries are available. For more information, call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

Episcopal calendar

Nov. 16 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 22 (10 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Poverty, war keep child mortality rates high, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While infant and child mortality rates have been slashed by more than half over the past 50 years, nearly 10 million children still die each year, said a Vatican official.

“We are still far from satisfactorily accomplishing the fourth Millennium Development Goal” to reduce child mortality, said Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry.

The U.N. goals, established in 2000 and intended to be reached by 2015, address issues such as hunger, education and poverty.

Cardinal Lozano said that 4 million newborns die within the first month from a combination of infectious diseases, malnutrition and poverty. While poverty remains the primary reason children contract diseases, armed conflict also has killed more than 2 million children and injured 6 million in the last decade, the cardinal said.

Children born in industrialized nations are not immune from poverty, he said, as one in six children in wealthier countries lives below the poverty line.

The cardinal spoke at a Nov. 11 press conference outlining an upcoming congress sponsored by the health care council. More than 40 experts were to discuss at the Nov. 13-15 international congress how the church can address the pastoral and spiritual needs of sick children and their families.

In response to a journalist’s question concerning U.S. President-elect Barack Obama’s support of embryonic stem-cell research, the cardinal said embryonic stem cells “are good for nothing.”

Experiments and research using embryonic stem cells have not produced any positive results or potential cures, he said. Instead, scientists have discovered success and real therapeutic promise from adult stem cells and umbilical-cord blood.

He said therapies and research using stem cells must follow the same ethical criteria used with organ transplants — neither the donor nor the recipient’s lives must be put at risk.

Crisis in the Congo



CNS PHOTO BY FINBARR O'REILLY, REUTERS

A clergyman and refugees pray Nov. 12 at the grave of eight-month-old Alexandrine Kabitsebangumi, who died from cholera, after her burial in a banana grove at Kibati, north of Goma in eastern Congo. Recent fighting has contributed to a heightened risk of cholera in camps for displaced people.

Armed men kidnap two nuns who work with Somali refugees in Kenya

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two Italian nuns, both in their 60s, were kidnapped Nov. 10 in northeastern Kenya near the border with Somalia, the Vatican newspaper reported.

L'Osservatore Romano identified the nuns as Sister Caterina Giraudo, 67, and Sister Maria Teresa Oliviero, 61, both from Cuneo, Italy, where their religious order, the Contemplative Missionary Movement of Father Charles de Foucauld, is based.

The women had been working for years with Somali refugees in Kenya.

Members of the Kenya Red Cross Society told authorities the nuns were taken by a group of armed men, who also stole three vehicles.

Father Pino Isoardi, head of the Contemplative Missionary Movement, told Vatican Radio that the nuns, like all the members of the group, “share their lives with the poor. We don’t have any big structures. We welcome into our homes the sick, the aged, people who are starving.”

As of midafternoon Nov. 10, the kidnappers had not been in contact with the congregation, he said.

Father Isoardi said he hoped that in Kenya “the elders, who have authority in that area, are able to make contact” with the kidnappers and arrange the sisters’ release.

The Contemplative Missionary Movement, founded in Italy in the mid-1950s, is made up of religious who live in small communities in the midst of slums, refugee camps and other areas of great poverty.

Stained glass can open a person to God, says artist

GLASS, from page 1

panels in two other windows. In one, Jesus holds the bread at the Last Supper as St. Peter and St. John look at him in awe. Mary and St. John stand on either side of the crucifix in another window.

Humphrey and Steffel plan to add the bottom panels, with their floral designs and names of the windows, by the end of November. They didn't remove the original clear glass, which protects the stained glass from the elements and provides additional insulation.

The three windows adorning the church's day chapel area were planned when the church was built last year.

"Stained-glass windows tell a story" and can aid a person's prayer as the individual meditates on the scenes depicted, said Father Larry LoMonaco, pastor.

He and parishioners chose the windows' theme, "St. John the Evangelist and his role in our salvation," Father LoMonaco said. "He was there for the Last Supper and the Crucifixion — key events in our salvation."

Sister Couture, a stained-glass artist for 29 years, designed the windows. She, Resos and fellow artisan Garrett Baron, created them at Sisters of St. Joseph Architectural Stained Glass in St. Augustine, Fla.

They're not finished with St. John the Evangelist Church yet. A round window in the same area has four triangular clear-glass panes separated by crossbars.

"A parishioner saw the new windows and wrote a check on the spot" to pay for Sister Couture to create stained-glass inserts representing the four evangelists, Father LoMonaco said. These may be in place by Christmas.

There are no plans to replace the church's nine other clear-glass windows.

Creating art

From the time the client approves the design, it takes about a month to create a window, according to Sister Couture.

The techniques go back centuries. For instance, the same type of paint used on St. John the Evangelist Church's windows is the same type of paint used in churches in Europe in the 1700s.

The paint is applied to the glass,



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

The three new stained-glass windows in St. John the Evangelist church, as seen in this Nov. 5 photo, depict St. John the Evangelist, the Crucifixion and the Last Supper.

which is then fired (baked) in a kiln. To create dimension, such as facial contours and folds in clothing, successive layers of paint are applied and the glass is fired after each application.

Sister Couture runs Sisters of St. Joseph Architectural Stained Glass and designs the windows, mostly for churches. She and her crew have worked in some 250 churches around the world and helped restore churches damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The studio also created a stained-glass window in 2001 for a memorial in New York City commemorating those who were lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The window is now part of a national shrine in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan.

Sister Couture also gives programs on the spirituality of the arts in sacred spaces. With a background in psychology and counseling, Sister Couture once ran gerontology and oncology units in hospitals. Stained glass began as her hobby. Eventually she taught classes in the art, including at her alma mater, Flagler College in St. Augustine.

"Part of (the Sisters of St. Joseph) mission statement is that art is essential to life," Sister Couture said. "Art within a sacred space can open a person to the presence of God."

"People stand in awe of a stained-glass window," she said. "There's not much talking. They listen and they watch, and isn't that an element of contemplation?"

Windows provide an opening to ministry, Sister Couture said.

"Our main focus is ministry to whomever we meet," she said. "As Sisters of St. Joseph, the windows become part of the avenue on the journey to God. You stop and listen if someone wants to ask you something.

You focus on the person."

During their work on Hurricane Katrina-devastated churches, she said, people would come into the churches to watch the work, but would then begin to talk about what they had been through.

At that point, Sister Couture would sit down and listen to their stories.

"When a parish accepts us, we take it as a call and journey with them," she said. "If you're dealing with sacred space, you have to come to it from a sacred perspective. People come to a sacred space to be changed and healed."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Kloiber-Healy Memorial Golf Classic

Saturday, November 22

Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation, Mint Hill



Eleven years ago five young men from the CCHS class of '84 began what has become an annual event for friends, family and alumni of CCHS. It was established to remember two young women, both alumni of CCHS: Megan Healy - class of '90, daughter of Jerry Healy and Kathy Healy; and Kara Kloiber - class of '93, daughter of Joe and Diane Kloiber.

Both girls were wonderful examples of CCHS, knowing always that Catholic education was a privilege and knowing, as well, that giving back to the community that supported them for 13 years of Catholic school would be their gift. They celebrated all

that CCHS has to offer, a faith community like no other supported by fine academics and people who continue to make a difference -- not only at CCHS but throughout the Catholic community.

The proceeds from this tournament go directly to the CCHS Foundation and are used entirely for CCHS student scholarships. To date more than \$100,000 has been awarded.

To register, please contact:

Robert Boyd 704-374-3547 rboyd@wbtc.com, or

Mike Mahoney 704-543-3143 homegolf@yahoo.com

The Healy and Kloiber families, along with the recipients of these scholarships, thank you in advance for your continued support of this annual event. It is truly something to see and be part of as members of our community. CCHS alumni, friends and family come together to support this worthwhile tradition.

If you are unable to join us for this memorable outing and would like to make a donation, checks should be mailed to: Charlotte Catholic Golf Outings, 9307 Hanlin Ct., Charlotte, NC 28277.

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College to keep campus life around Eucharist

CHAPEL, from page 1

resident, and Abbot Placid Solari, chancellor, formulated the overall strategic plan for the college's growth, the first item on the list was the construction of a new adoration chapel — the first new building on campus in almost 20 years.

"The first line of our mission statement says 'Belmont Abbey College finds its center in Jesus Christ,'" said Thierfelder.

"Out of everything that we were going to build, I wanted this to be the first thing that we broke ground on because I thought that it communicated, more powerfully than I possibly could, what we actually value and what we think is at the core and route of Belmont Abbey College," he said.

"My hope is that by having the Blessed Sacrament here in adoration, we will attract vocations to the monastic community and good, solid, holy students to Belmont Abbey College," he said.

Work on the chapel began a little more than two years ago with a groundbreaking Aug. 22, 2006.

The completed St. Joseph Adoration Chapel was blessed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Nov. 7.

"It is a very visible symbol that Belmont Abbey is a Catholic college," said Abbot Solari.

Nestled in the woods near the campus dormitories, the chapel is designed to accommodate approximately 40 people.

"It's right here for the students," he said referring to the chapel's location at the center of campus.

It contains a marble altar with a built-in tabernacle, originally from Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, and a wooden altar for the celebration of the Eucharist, originally from Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont — both donated by

"My hope is that by having the Blessed Sacrament here in adoration, we will attract vocations to the monastic community and good, solid, holy students to Belmont Abbey."

— William Thierfelder

the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont.

"This was quite a vision," said Rep. Patrick McHenry, of North Carolina's 10th Congressional District, Belmont Abbey College alumnus.

"Abbot Placid and Dr. Thierfelder have been focused on growing Belmont Abbey and this is where they wanted to start," he said.

The chapel was completely funded by donations, according to Kenneth Davison, vice president of college relations, and more than 80 percent of the people who made donations for the chapel were first time donors to the college.

"Some of the most powerful messages are so simple," said McHenry. "This is a simple chapel, but it represents something amazing."

The original adoration chapel at Belmont Abbey College was a converted office located behind the monastery. It was inaugurated in 1995 by then-Bishop William G. Curlin.

Begun under Abbot Oscar Burnett,



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Nestled in the woods near the campus dormitories, the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College can accommodate approximately 40 people. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the chapel about 16 hours a day.

the chapel was a cooperative effort of Belmont Abbey College, Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia and Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

It was the first perpetual adoration chapel in the diocese, according to Davison, but over the years the hours were cut back because there weren't enough participants.

In the new chapel, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for approximately 16 hours a day, but the chapel is always open.

In his homily during the Mass for the blessing of the chapel, Bishop Jugis mentioned his wish that it again become a place of perpetual adoration.

"The love of Jesus remains at the very heart of the (Catholic) Church's life," said Bishop Jugis in a 2005 article in The Catholic News & Herald.

"Eucharistic worship gives life to all the ministries of the parish ... (and) to our Christian life in our homes and in our places of work," he said.

"I myself spend time each day in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament," said the bishop. "It is the real presence of Christ which makes the difference, adding a richness to the prayer as opposed to praying elsewhere."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE PICS?

More photos online at www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html.

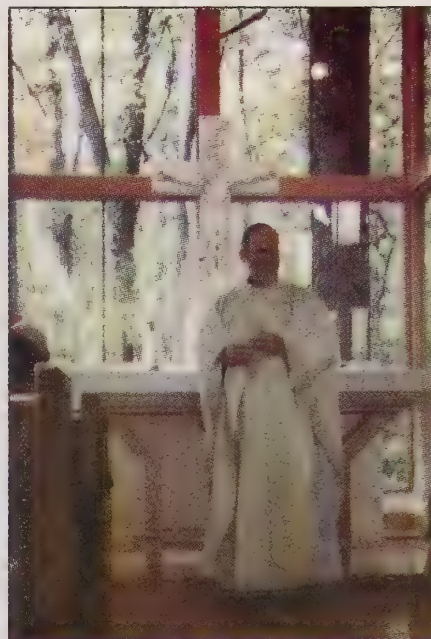


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Abbot Placid Solari gives the closing remarks following the blessing of the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College Nov. 7. "It is a very visible symbol that Belmont Abbey is a Catholic college," said Abbot Solari.

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Promoting life awareness



COURTESY PHOTO

Kristen Giessler, a registered nurse and a Catholic, gives a health care presentation as part of a joint Silent No More and "40 Days for Life" pro-life campaign at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte Oct. 29. The presentation, given every hour on the hour throughout the day, was a new educational focus of the campaigns.

"40 Days for Life" is a nationwide ecumenical campaign aiming to end abortion through prayer, fasting, outreach and vigils. Silent No More, a coalition of more than 4,000 women and men who witness to the negative aftereffects of abortion, is a joint project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life.

Celebrating life



COURTESY PHOTO

Rita O'Neil and Pat Switzer, parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, enjoy the "Celebration of Life" festivities at the church Sept. 19.

More than 250 parishioners attended the event, which included dinner and a showing of the movie "Bella," about an unmarried waitress who loses her job after becoming pregnant and an empathetic chef who gives her emotional support while gently persuading her to keep the baby.

The event was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the parish Respect Life Ministry.

Witnessing the Lord's grace

'Roe' discusses pro-life advocacy since Roe v. Wade case

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" in the Roe v. Wade 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, recently brought her pro-life message to Greensboro.

McCorvey, who became a pro-life supporter in 1995 after spending years as a proponent of legal abortion, was the keynote speaker during a fundraising banquet for Room at the Inn of the Carolinas in Greensboro Nov. 6.

Room at the Inn of the Carolinas offers crisis pregnancy assistance to homeless pregnant women during their pregnancies and after the birth of their babies.

Attending the banquet were Bishop Peter J. Jugis of the Diocese of Charlotte and Suffragan Bishop Peter Brewer of the Diocese of the Eastern United States of the Anglican Province of America.

The banquet featured talks by Room at the Inn of the Carolinas clients, who expressed gratitude for the assistance of the organization and its supporters.

As founder of the nondenominational Crossing Over Ministry (formerly named Roe No More Ministry), McCorvey, a Catholic convert, travels internationally speaking on behalf of the pro-life movement.

She is particularly interested in helping crisis pregnancy centers such as Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, which has facilities in both North and South Carolina.

McCorvey has said she still carries guilt for her involvement in what would become Roe v. Wade.

As a pregnant 22-year-old in 1969, McCorvey was referred by an adoption attorney to lawyers seeking a plaintiff for an abortion suit against the state of Texas. She said she signed the affidavit that brought the "holocaust" of abortion into the nation, although her baby was given up for adoption.

McCorvey said she was told that the legalization of abortion would end back-alley abortions and "probably" put a stop to rape and incest.

But the lawyers really wanted to legalize abortion across the land, she said in an interview.

In 1994, after more than two decades of guilt-induced drug binges and various jobs at abortion clinics, McCorvey began to change her mind about the abortion industry, especially when Operation Rescue moved next door to her workplace, an abortion clinic in Texas.

She was particularly enchanted with the friendliness of two little girls, Emily and Chelsea, the 7- and 4-year-old daughters of Operation Rescue workers.

"I was on the pro-abortion side so long, I didn't know how to react to the kindness and love that all these people and the children were showing me," said McCorvey.

She became disillusioned with her job admitting women for first-

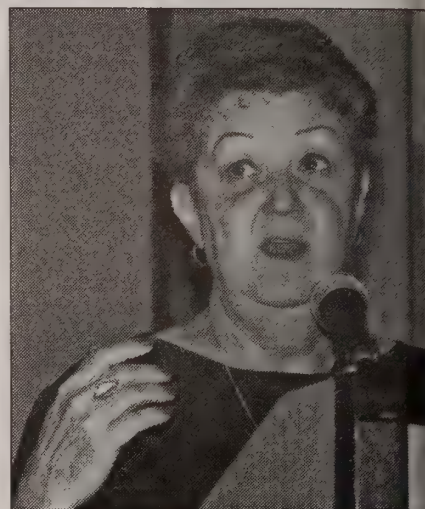


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Norma Corvey, the "Roe" in the U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade case and now a pro-life advocate, speaks during a fundraising banquet for Room at the Inn of the Carolinas in Greensboro Nov. 6.

and second-trimester abortions. Each weekend, according to McCorvey, clinic staff had to perform enough abortions to meet a \$40,000 quota.

McCorvey said she was tiring of the abortion movement, and had become "fed up with the lies and the mistreatment of the women" coming in for abortions.

When she started counseling women that they were under no obligation to go through with an abortion, thereby reducing the weekend numbers, she was fired.

In 1995, while attending a church service with Emily and Chelsea's family, McCorvey answered an "altar call," an invitation to come forward and publicly accept Christ as lord and savior.

A couple of years later, McCorvey felt called to the Catholic Church of her youth. (Her mother was Catholic and her father was a Jehovah's Witness.)

After receiving instruction in the Catholic faith at St. Albert's Priory at the University of Dallas, she became a Catholic in 1998.

"I think it's great being a Catholic, and I enjoy my work a great deal," said McCorvey.

In 2005, McCorvey and Sandra Cano, the "Mary Doe" of the companion 1973 Doe v. Bolton ruling, both unsuccessfully petitioned the Supreme Court to reconsider its rulings that legalized abortion.

McCorvey and Cano requested the court to set aside the decisions, or at least order a new trial on the merits for reversal. However, the court rejected the appeal.

"The stories given by Norma and the others are a good witness to God's mercy," said David Foppe, a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro who attended the banquet.

"They help us to keep on going to love others as God loves us. This is like going to a banquet in Heaven."

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

FROM THE COVER

Reconciliation after election possible, but expected to take time

ELECTION, from page 1

What Barkley experienced next illustrates some of the polarizing actions that separated people of faith during the election cycle.

"She asked me, 'Are you Catholic?'" Barkley said, recalling the Oct. 25 encounter at her suburban Cincinnati home. "I said 'Yes.' And she said 'Are you pro-choice?' and I said 'I'm not going to answer that. I have no reason to answer that.'"

That's when the unexpected visitor launched into a tirade aimed at the widow, the mother of three and a former vowed member of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.

"You don't know what you are doing!" she shouted, stunning Barkley, who is involved in various ministries at her nearby parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

"I told her I felt I was very well-informed. I read the (U.S. bishops') Faithful Citizenship' document a year ago. I feel like I know the teaching of the church and I feel fine with my conscience," Barkley said.

Not persuaded, the woman's anger grew.

"She was furious with me," Barkley said.

Thrusting an envelope at Barkley, the woman turned and began walking away.

"I will be back and I will bring others with me," she said in a shrill voice. Halfway down the drive she turned and shouted again, "I will be back!"

The envelope, along with another that Barkley received in the mail four days later with the return address only indicating "Friends of Immaculate Heart of Mary," contained graphic images of aborted children, excerpts from Scripture and references to a Web site focusing on the "tough love" of Christ.

The irate visitor's threats never were carried out, but Barkley was shaken enough to call the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. The dispatcher advised her to call 911 should the woman

or her supporters return.

"What I'm feeling is why do I have to prove to these people that I'm a good person," Barkley later told Catholic News Service. "It bothers me that they perceive me as evil and it's very hurtful."

A tall order

Seemingly, the most heartfelt anger has revolved around the issues of pro-life and family concerns — abortion, euthanasia, stem-cell research, traditional marriage, all keystones of the Catholic faith. Some of the most strident voices have questioned the faithfulness of Catholic supporters of the Democratic ticket of Sens. Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

Likewise, the din of malicious rhetoric has hardly left supporters of Republicans Sen. John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin untouched. Not only have staunch partisans attacked the candidates themselves in humiliating ways unheard of in 20th-century campaigns, but voters supporting the GOP duo have been degraded and mocked for their positions as well.

So what lies ahead? After the rancor of the campaign, can America overcome the contempt that at times has bordered on hate? Can people of faith be reconciled so that they can stand behind the White House's new occupant as he attempts to unify an increasingly polarized country?

"It's a tall order," said Marie Dennis, director of the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns in Washington.

She said the basis for reconciliation can be found in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2007 document on political responsibility, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

"The bishops' political responsibility document was excellent," Dennis told CNS. "It really laid the groundwork for that kind of reconciliation because it really embraces the moral dilemma that we face that I think is at the root of the conflict."

"Part of the challenge is we all know we are faced with imperfect choices, and that makes everybody anxious that there is not going to be a definitive answer to the great moral challenges of our time in the short term," she said.



CNS PHOTO BY KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama and Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth, a double amputee, walk together to place a wreath at a veterans memorial in Chicago Nov. 11. Duckworth is director of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Illinois.

The key, Dennis offered, is for Catholics to open an honest discussion with each other.

"You have to listen to each other respectfully ... we have to begin with the belief that we are all people of good will and that if we are caring enough to pay attention to these serious moral issues, that we're trying to do it from the deepest place in our hearts," Dennis said.

"That may be the prophetic role of the church right now, ... to insist that that is necessary, that we as a Catholic community model the kind of right relationships that we wish for the world," she added.

That will be difficult, in the eyes of Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., who chaired the USCCB committee that wrote "Faithful Citizenship."

He told CNS that while there is a need for people to stop "looking for the worst in the other," Catholics still must challenge intrinsic evils such as abortion as long as they remain the law of the land.

"There's no compromise and no easy way around it," Bishop DiMarzio said. "There are ways on how we can limit an intrinsic evil and we should take those steps."

"But there's a culture of death you are supporting and it's not going to go away. We are going to have a hard time reconciling," he said.

Apologies and love

Even as the life issues are of foremost concern, Vincent Rougeau, associate professor of law at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, said Catholics of differing perspectives must reach out to each other so that the wounds opened by those who question the validity of someone's faith because of their voting preferences are not left untended.

"When really hurtful words have been exchanged and people are diminished and demeaned in ways that

are debasing and demoralizing, you've got to do some repair work," explained Rougeau, who has widely taught and written about Catholic social teaching and its intersection with public life.

"Part of that is extending a hand and saying, 'Let's have a conversation from the places that we share and recognizing that we don't live in a perfect world and that there are difficult decisions we have to make and we may not come to the same conclusions,'" Rougeau told CNS.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, lamented that "we have lost the ability within the church and society in general to constructively challenge and criticize one another."

He called for reconciliation where there has been "rash judgment, harshness, lack of charity, real anger, sometimes rising to the level of hatred."

"What needs to be done is that people who have crossed the line of charity and justice simply need to apologize," he said.

"Catholic faith and Christian morality require that we make up for it somehow. You can't put the feathers back inside the pillow when you harm someone's reputation, but you can make amends," said Father Pavone.

Despite such calls, the question over whether Catholics can be reconciled with each other remains.

Notre Dame's Rougeau said the answer can be found in Catholic social teaching.

"You have to say you're available," he said, "and you're willing to talk and think about one of the core messages of Catholic social teaching — openness to the other, the people you least want to deal with to have the transformative experience of Christian love."

"If black South Africans (now) can talk with white South Africans, if Jews can talk to former Nazis, we can talk to each other," he said.

Obama phones pope to thank him for congratulatory message

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. President-elect Barack Obama telephoned Pope Benedict XVI to thank the pope for his message of congratulations on his election victory.

The pope was one of the many world leaders Obama has been contacting since his Nov. 4 win.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, confirmed to Catholic News Service Nov. 12 that the president-elect telephoned the pope Nov. 11 "to thank the pope for his telegram, his congratulations" on winning the U.S. presidential election.

Further details about the call were not known, Father Lombardi said.

Pope Benedict sent his congratulations Nov. 5, referring to the "historic occasion" of the election, marking the first time a black man has been elected president of the United States.

Father Lombardi said Nov. 5 the pope prayed that "the blessing of God would sustain him (Obama) and the American people so that with all people of good will they could build a world of peace, solidarity and justice."

The press office for Obama's presidential transition team said all conversations with world leaders are private and no details would be released on this conversation or any conversation with world leaders.

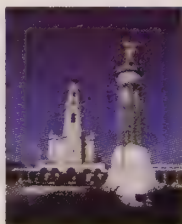


CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Diego submits ballots during a vote Nov. 11 at the annual fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

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Bishops issue statement

Highlights of 2008 USCCB fall general assembly

BISHOPS, from page 1

BALTIMORE (CNS) — At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Nov. 10-12 fall general assembly in Baltimore, the bishops:

— Heard their president, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, acknowledge the historic significance of the election of President-elect Barack Obama and pray that the incoming president will be able to succeed in his task for the good of all.

— Warned the new administration and new Congress that lifting existing federal abortion restrictions would permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans and could be seen as an attack on religious freedom.

— Said the church will continue in a time of economic crisis to reach out to those in need, stand with those who are hurt, and work for more just and compassionate policies.

— Approved another lengthy section of the English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal, which must now be confirmed by the Vatican.

— Chose the Revised Grail Psalter produced by the monks of Conception Abbey in Missouri over the Revised New American Bible translation of the Book of Psalms for liturgical use in the United States.

— Overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.

— Elected Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, as USCCB secretary-elect and chose chairmen-elect for five USCCB committees.

— Approved a \$144 million budget and a lengthy list of plans and programs for the USCCB in 2009.

— Set a host of goals for five task forces on issues ranging from strengthening marriage to addressing cultural diversity in the church as priority initiatives through 2011.

— Heard a report from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that it cut off funding earlier this year to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, for reasons unrelated to the organization's current troubles over voter registration and partisan politics.

— Voted in favor of a revised process for submitting "varia" — new issues that an individual bishop or group of bishops would like to see considered by the full body.

— Explored how domestic and international charitable organizations have found encouragement and helpful guidance in Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love").

— Learned The Catholic University of America in Washington has had a record-breaking year for freshman enrollment and for national fundraising, but lost millions in investments in the 2008 economic meltdown.

opposing evil."

It warns against interpreting the outcome of the Nov. 4 elections as "a referendum on abortion" and says "aggressively pro-abortion policy legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans."

The statement was crafted during the bishops' meeting in Baltimore and involved a total of nearly three hours of discussion during executive and public sessions Nov. 11.

Under USCCB policies, statements drafted outside the usual committee approval process may be issued by the conference president on behalf of the bishops.

The final product was written under the supervision of Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president after the bishops weighed in with recommendations about its content, tone and writing style.

After an overnight writing session the statement was read by Cardinal George to the body of bishops, who greeted it with applause.

Among other meeting actions, the bishops approved a statement on the economy, a blessing for children in the womb and a second section of the Roman Missal translation.

They gave five task forces the authority to develop church priorities up to 2011 on issues ranging from strengthening marriage to addressing cultural diversity in the church.

They also approved a budget of \$144 million, a 2.25 percent increase from 2008, and they elected a conference secretary-elect and chairmen-elect for five committees: pro-life activities; cultural diversity; communications; doctrine and national collections.

On the economy

In their statement on the economic crisis, approved Nov. 11, they reminded people that "we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We are all in this together."

Adopted in a voice vote, the brief statement released by Cardinal George on behalf of the bishops noted that "hard times can isolate us or they can bring us together."

"As pastors and bishops, we see the many human and moral consequences of this crisis," the statement said.

Though the impact of the crisis is greater in some regions of the country, families all across the nation are losing their homes, workers are losing their jobs and health care coverage, retirement savings are threatened and people are losing the sense of hope and security it continued.

But the church will continue to "reach out to those in need, stand with those who are hurt, and work for policies that bring greater compassion, accountability and justice to economic life," the statement said.

authorize task forces

The bishops concluded by offering prayers for anyone who is "hurting, anxious or discouraged in these difficult times."

Roman Missal

Despite some continued criticism that the latest English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal is plagued by obscure wording and sentences that are too long, the U.S. bishops approved another lengthy section of the translation Nov. 11.

Needing affirmation by two-thirds of the 264 Latin-rite U.S. bishops, or 176 bishops, the heavily amended translation of the Proper of the Seasons — made up of the proper prayers for Sundays and feast days during the liturgical year — received 189 votes in favor and 30 against.

During the bishops' meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June, the document failed to get the required two-thirds majority.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, called the translation "a step forward in the continual renewal of the liturgy" and said no document was ever likely to receive the unanimous support of the bishops.

The translation now goes to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for "recognitio," or confirmation. The first section of the missal came before the bishops in 2006 and was confirmed by the Vatican earlier this year.

Blessings and psalms

To fill a gap in existing prayer books, the U.S. bishops overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., praised the new blessing as "a tangible way to witness pastorally and sacramentally to the life of the unborn child" and said it could also serve as an opportunity for parishes to bring together expectant couples for mutual support.

The document also must be sent to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for "recognitio," or confirmation. The English-language version was approved 223-1 and the Spanish-language version 224-0.

The U.S. bishops later chose the Revised Grail Psalter produced by the monks of Conception Abbey in Missouri for liturgical use in the United States.

The Nov. 12 vote was 203-5 in favor of accepting a recommendation of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship to adopt the Grail Psalter for use in all liturgical settings. The decision also must be confirmed by the Vatican.

There was little debate before the vote and no amendments could be made to the translated psalms.

CCHD and ACORN

In a report to the bishops Nov. 11, Auxiliary Bishop Roger P. Morin of New Orleans explained that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) cut off funding earlier this year to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, for reasons unrelated to the organization's current troubles over voter registration and partisan politics.

Bishop Morin, chairman of the U.S. bishops' subcommittee on the CCHD, said the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program which supports community groups in June suspended \$1.13 million in previously authorized grants to ACORN affiliates.

No new applications from ACORN for the coming year were approved, he added.

Bishop Morin explained that the CCHD action followed the revelation June 2 that Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke, had embezzled nearly \$1 million from the organization and its affiliates in 1999 and 2000.

Dale Rathke stepped down from his position with the national organization in June when the matter became public; no charges were filed against him.

That revelation "raised questions



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIEHCEK

Bishop Michael R. Cote of Norwich, Conn. (front left) and Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati, attend a Nov. 11 session of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

about transparency and governance of ACORN," Bishop Morin told the bishops.

CCHD commissioned a forensic audit to determine whether any of the church's funds had been stolen or used inappropriately.

A final report is pending, but he said the work so far has concluded that "our funds were not involved with those embezzled at the national office."

Other items

In an action related to key priorities established earlier by the bishops, the prelates agreed to grant five task forces the authority to tackle issues ranging from strengthening marriage to addressing cultural diversity in the church through 2011 and approved a host of goals for each task force for the next year.

The task forces are on faith formation and sacramental practice; strengthening

marriage; the life and dignity of the human person; cultural diversity in the church; and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The task forces are expected to come back to the 2009 fall general assembly with detailed reports about meeting the American church's agenda on these issues, said Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., conference vice president.

"It's a tremendous investment for the conference," Bishop Kicanas said. "These are more than goals and objectives. These are lifelong challenges."

Several U.S. bishops who attended the Oct. 5-26 world Synod of Bishops on the Bible in Rome discussed the moving experience they had and their rediscovery of the beauty of the word of God.

They also said Pope Benedict XVI was present during much of the synod and was attentive to what was being said.

Almost lost in the busy Nov. 11 afternoon session was the 2009 USCCB budget. The bishops approved a budget of \$144 million, a 2.25 percent increase from 2008.

In one of the few votes on the meeting's first day, Nov. 10, the bishops agreed to a revised process for submitting "varia" — new issues that an individual bishop or group of bishops would like to see considered by the full body.

The new process was designed to allow for flexibility but conform to criteria established under the USCCB reorganization last year.

The bishops also decided by voice vote to review the USCCB regulations on statements and publications in light of the reorganization.

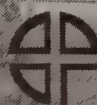
Revised regulations were expected to be submitted to the full body in June.

Contributing to this roundup were Chaz Muth, Nancy Frazier O'Brien and Patricia Zapor.

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Woman says Holy Spirit inspired 'talking Bible' storybook

Battery-operated book to appeal to Christians of all denominations

BY PAULA DOYLE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Three years ago, Pamela Fischer woke up one morning in Los Angeles with a new vocation. The 48-year-old wife and mother of two St. Monica High School students and a college freshman art major had an idea for a book project.

"I felt an inspiration from the Holy Spirit to get together a Bible storybook for little ones," said Fischer, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Although she was a publishing neophyte, she wasn't daunted by the challenge of producing a battery-operated Bible for pre-readers and early readers. The recently released book, which was approved by the Los Angeles archdiocesan Office of Religious Education, is titled "This Bible Talks! A Child's First 'Press & Play' Bible Storybook."

"You don't question the Holy Spirit when you feel it strongly. In discernment, I felt very comfortable and at ease and at peace that this was something I should do," said Fischer, a longtime member of her parish women's faith-sharing group.

Her first step toward accomplishing her mission was to meet with officials at St. Paul the Apostle's parish school, then with second-grade chaplain, Paulist Father Brad Schoeberle, who picked 28 to 30 core Bible stories that particularly connected with young children.

Fischer pared the stories down to 20 and began writing short narratives.

"It was a lot of days of prayer. I would write and I would pray," said Fischer.

A volunteer for ecumenical causes promoting Christian unity among Catholics, Protestants and members of Orthodox churches, Fischer wanted the Bible storybook to appeal to Christians of all denominations.

To that end, she contacted Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson, pastor of St. Monica Church in Santa Monica, who reviewed the text from a Catholic perspective. A Methodist minister Fischer knew suggested a few subtle changes, then the vetted text received a stamp of approval from her publisher's Eastern Orthodox bishop.

"It's so important to me to have the little children come to know Christ. I just really wanted to make this Bible universal to all Christian churches. I didn't want any child left out," Fischer said.

A cradle Catholic whose parents shared Bible stories with her as a young child, Fischer said her early introduction to Scripture allowed her to have Christ



CNS PHOTO BY MARK HEUGER

Pamela Fischer, a parishioner at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles, is author of "This Bible Talks! A Child's First 'Press & Play' Bible Storybook." The recently released book has been approved by the Los Angeles archdiocesan Office of Religious Education. She is pictured in an undated photo.

as a central focus in her life. When she had her own children, now ages 20, 17 and 14, she made sure she read stories to them about Jesus when they were small.

"My vision is that this Bible in different languages will reach out to children around the world, especially those living in poverty," said Fischer, who added she didn't want a child's illiteracy to keep him or her from learning about Jesus.

With the generous financial backing of her husband, Joel, a carpenter/house builder and Catholic convert, Fischer was able to self-publish the book, with two triple-A batteries included.

Nonreaders who peruse "This Bible Talks!" can hear a narration of the text by pressing the picture icons on the book's raised plastic panel. Early readers can follow the text as they listen to the engaging voice of the male narrator.

The talking Bible includes 16 chapters with short, paragraph-length stories from both the Old and New Testaments, starting with "God's Gift of Creation" and ending with "Jesus Sends Us the Holy Spirit."

The colorful illustrations, many showing a smiling Jesus, were a team effort by artist-daughter Jenny, who drew the initial sketches, and Nicole Armitage, a former Disney artist. Fischer's husband, who was a college English major, helped with editing.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 23, 2008

Nov. 23, Our Lord Jesus
Christ the King

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Psalms 23:1-3, 5-6
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Christ is the one who will rescue the world

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A popular story describes a man stranded on his rooftop, praying as the floodwaters rise. When a boat with a rescue crew arrives, he refuses their help, saying, "No, God will save me."

Later, a helicopter pilot meets with the same response. Eventually the man drowns, and upon reaching heaven he asks God, "Why didn't you save me?" whereupon God replies, "I sent you a boat and a helicopter!"

Obviously, this anecdote is about not recognizing God's saving power when it arrives, usually because it doesn't appear on one's own terms or in the way one imagines it will.

This paradox is borne out in the readings for the feast of Christ the King. The compassionate rescue of God's lost sheep, as promised in Ezekiel, goes hand in hand with Christ's stern judgment of them in the Gospel of Matthew — giving us a greater insight into both rescue and judgment.

For in the Scriptures, God's judgment isn't simply an act of retribution or

punishment. When heeded, it can also correct, teach and heal in a way that rescues and restores.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted this great feast of the church year as an antidote for the secularism of the age that attempted to exclude God from both private and public life, thus placing at risk the defenseless and the weak of society.

Unlike the power-seeking regime of this world, the kingship of Christ — largely unrecognizable to those who are expecting something else — is one of humility and service. Christ's saving judgment of the "sleek and the strong," or his "shepherding rightly" those who do not yet recognize him in the least of his brothers and sisters, can truly become their "rescue."

This judgment applies not merely to individuals, but to the nations of the world who are to be held accountable for the treatment of their weakest members.

Our contemporary world isn't all that different from 1925, the age of Ezekiel or the age of Matthew: Many human beings still find themselves "scattered" in their rejection of God and their focus on self.

But Christ — their judge and their rescuer — still reigns.

Questions:

In what way have I misunderstood or misread Christ's "rescue" in my life? If were to examine closely my treatment of the least of Christ's brothers and sisters how would I be judged?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered" (Ezekiel 34:12).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 16-22

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30; **Monday**, Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (The Dedication of St. Peter and St. Paul Basilicas in Rome, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne)**, Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday**, Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday**, Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary)**, Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Cecilia)**, Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 23-29

Sunday (Christ the King), Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46; **Monday (St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions)**, Revelation 14:1-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday (St. Catherine of Alexandria)**, Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday**, Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday**, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.



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Musicologist pays tribute to nuns with rediscovery of religious music

BY JEAN M. SCHILDZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. LOUIS — Geraldine Rohling's network has led her to discoveries of forgotten works of religious music and a way to repay the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the education she cherishes and the hospitality they've shown her during her years of search.

Rohling is an internationally recognized musicologist, conductor and composer and is the archivist and curator of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

She came home to her native St. Louis in mid-October to prepare for Oct. 24 benefit concert to honor the sisters' 175th anniversary and 150 years of ministry in the St. Louis Archdiocese.

The centerpiece for the concert was music she recovered — "Jubel Messe" (Jubilation Mass) by composer Max Keller — from archives in the German state of Bavaria and in Austria. She also chose a piece by Johann Caspar Aiblinger.

Both Keller's and Aiblinger's compositions are from the region and the period of the founding of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

In addition, the concert program opened with her own composition, "Lucernarium: The Lighting of the Evening Lamps," and include pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann

Michael Haydn, the younger brother of Franz Joseph Haydn.

In an interview with the St. Louis Review, the archdiocesan newspaper, Rohling spoke about how she came to find Keller's Mass and the connection he and Aiblinger and their music have to the sisters.

She said Keller was a contemporary of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, the foundress of the congregation. His Mass — and his last known composition — was first performed Oct. 6, 1851, in Altotting in Bavaria.

Four years before, Blessed Theresa had sent five candidates on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Altotting. There they prayed for members of the congregation who, in 1847, were to leave to minister in America.

After its premiere, Keller's composition was placed in the music archives of the Kapellstiftung in Altotting. The work didn't see the light of day for more than a century until Rohling found it in 2005.

She then prepared a performance edition of it. Her revival of the Mass premiered in Altotting in 2007. It took place at a national celebration of Mary, the patroness of Bavaria, and in honor of the 80th birthday of Pope Benedict XVI.

Aiblinger was director of the Royal Court Orchestra in Munich, Germany, in the early 1800s. He was a friend of Blessed Theresa and, according to the congregation's records, was one of her



CNS PHOTO COURTESY SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME OF ST. LOUIS

Geraldine Rohling is an internationally recognized musicologist, conductor and composer and is the archivist and curator of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. She is pictured in an undated photo.

favorite composers.

He lived at the motherhouse in Munich and composed music for the sisters.

"There are some days when I just sit and pinch myself," said Rohling of her discovery and of the ability to do something for the sisters.

Rohling graduated from Notre Dame High School in St. Louis in 1970 and is an alumna of the former Notre Dame College. She also taught at the high school in 1980s.

She had planned to become a School Sister of Notre Dame as a young adult. Although she was accepted into the community, she said she wasn't ready to join them just then.

"But I didn't say, 'No, never.' I have to tell you, they are my sisters, they are my community. I belong to them and they belong to me, whether on paper or not," she said.

She eventually earned a doctorate in musicology and liturgy from The Catholic University of America in Washington and now specializes in sacred music and ritual.

In Austria, where she spent years researching materials, she is considered an authority on the musical and liturgical life of 17th- and 18th-century Vienna. Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna has called her "the scholar" of the Viennese Bruderschaften, or brotherhoods.

When Rohling studied in Europe she lived with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at their convent in Vienna.

"It was kind of like another home to me," she said.

Through her travels for research, she also came to know the sisters in several other European locales. Now, she said, her work has brought her back full circle to these sisters.

The benefit concert — and the American premiere of "Jubel Messe" — was planned as a celebration of who the School Sisters of Notre Dame are, said Rohling.

She said she told some of the sisters the concert conducted by her was "truly going to be a living, breathing page of your history. This is your history taking on flesh once again."

"To remember is to give life," according to an old rabbi's expression, Rohling said. "And this is exactly what we are doing. We are celebrating (foundress Mother Theresa's) vision."

"We are celebrating the generations of women who have embodied that vision and have gone forward with it," she said.

Bible's 'Buried Secrets' come to PBS this month

NEW YORK (CNS) — The origins of the Hebrew Scriptures — regarded as the inspired word of God by the roughly 3 billion worldwide adherents of Judaism, Christianity and Islam — are shrouded in obscurity.

Most scholars now reject the long-held belief that Moses was the author of the Torah (first five books of the Bible). Instead, they see them as products of a long oral tradition, the stories being passed down in different versions before eventually being woven into the text we know.

"The Bible's Buried Secrets," an intriguing, sometimes provocative look at how contemporary archaeology sheds light on this process, airs on PBS' "Nova" series Tuesday, Nov. 18, 8-10 p.m. EST.

Writer-director Gary Glassman's documentary also examines the historical underpinnings of such pivotal scriptural events as the Exodus, the Jewish conquest of Canaan and the building of Solomon's Temple. Through interviews with archaeologists and scholars, the film establishes a narrative of early Jewish history distinct from, but related to, the biblical account, yet one that relies entirely on secular explanations.

The most controversial claim advanced here is that Yahweh, the living God of Israel, was originally a pagan deity the Jews imported from

neighboring Midian — the site of Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush. Midian's residents worshipped a god with a similar-sounding name.

Yahweh, the program maintains, was also once understood to have a goddess wife, whose graven image the Israelites worshipped.

This theory fails to account, however, for the revolutionary religious innovation that made the Jewish people unique in the classical world: their monotheism, or devotion to only one God. If Yahweh was at first just another local idol, how was he later so radically transformed?

Other insights, like the crucial influence of the Israelites' sixth century B.C. Babylonian exile — which saw their worship of Yahweh become exclusive — are more solidly grounded. This national trauma, researchers suggest, may also have spurred the compilation of the various biblical sources.

In addition to footage of archaeological sites around the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, the program features ancient, medieval and more recent artwork illustrating biblical incidents and impressive animated reconstructions of classical structures.

The TV Parental Guideline for this program is TV-PG — parental guidance suggested.

'A Christmas Tale' not worth telling

NEW YORK (CNS) — "A Christmas Tale" ("Un Conte de Noel") is the portrait of a dysfunctional French family and their angst-ridden relationships.

Though this downbeat drama, as written and directed by Arnaud Desplechin, inches toward reconciliation, uniformly fine acting from the ensemble cast only makes the discord along the way that much more uncomfortable to watch.

An ambivalent portrayal of faith and an indulgence of adultery add further complications.

Holiday joy is conspicuously lacking as three grown siblings — Elizabeth, a successful playwright; Henri, a tipting ne'er-do-well; and Ivan, a would-be peacemaker caught in the emotional crossfire — gather at their parents' home for a rare reunion.

Their mother, Junon, has just been diagnosed with the same disease that killed their older brother, Joseph, in childhood. Junon's survival may depend on a bone-marrow transplant, and only Elizabeth's troubled teenage son, Paul, and Henri are compatible. Henri, we've learned, was conceived in the hope that he would be a suitable donor for Joseph.

The failure of that plan lies at the root of his seemingly loveless relationship with his mother. After a very long evening of

confrontations, insults and the occasional fistfight — jovially presided over by the clan's timid patriarch, Abel — Henri, Junon and Paul go off to midnight Mass and, though only Paul is shown praying, all three emerge refreshed.

Back home, however, Ivan's two sons stare at a manger scene and ask when Jesus is coming, only to be told "Jesus never existed."

Motivated by a startling family secret, Ivan's wife, Sylvia, has an adulterous encounter that the film presents sympathetically, though the script also clearly signals that there will be no repetition of this event.

In French with subtitles. The film contains graphic adulterous sexual activity, partial upper female and brief rear nudity, cohabitation, occasional rough and crude language, and sexual references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

WANT MORE REVIEWS?

More movie reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.

Dressing down to donate



COURTESY PHOTO

Tim Mainheart, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, is pictured Oct. 24 with students of Our Lady of Grace school who helped load a truck with boxes of clothes for the church's sister parish, Our Lady of Mercy Church in Nicaragua.

Mainheart, sister parish project coordinator, and Jacky Hunter, school technology coordinator who has visited the sister parish, gave the students a presentation on the Nicaragua church Oct. 15. The students held a dress-down day Oct. 24, raising more than \$400 for the sister parish, and brought in two truckloads of donated items to be delivered during a mission trip in December.

Driving donations



COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh-grade students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured Oct. 30 while loading donated coats, hats, boots and other items to be distributed to needy families through Our Lady of Mercy Church's outreach program. During the first few weeks of the clothing drive, which continues through November, the students had already collected more than 65 coats, gloves and boots.

Bringing the light



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of LIGHT (Living in God's Hope Today), the high school girl group at St. Therese Church in Mooresville, are pictured with a volunteer at the Mooresville Soup Kitchen Nov. 4. The teens spent their day off from school on Election Day serving the hungry of the community.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR - Raleigh

St. Raphael Catholic Church, a large Jesuit parish in the Diocese of Raleigh, is seeking to fill a Parish Administrator position. This position is a full-time, professional, ministerial position whose responsibilities include but are not limited to directing the administration of the parish, overseeing the Faith Formation program, and coordinating various aspects of the pastoral and social ministries of the parish. The Parish Administrator reports directly to the pastor, is a member of the Administrative Committee and will work in conjunction with the Director of Hispanic Ministry, the Principal of St. Raphael Catholic School, and the Director of the Early Childhood Center.

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Singing about safety



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Opera Express, the educational touring company of Opera Carolina, perform "Little Red's Most Unusual Day" for students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte Oct. 7. Attended by students from both St. Patrick and Our Lady of the Assumption schools, the production featured professional young singers, sets, props and costumes, with a story that emphasized safety rules. The performance was sponsored by St. Patrick school's parent-teacher organization and the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Foundation.

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Musical selections for elections



COURTESY PHOTO

Middle School students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro perform a patriotic musical entitled "Songs of America" for their classmates Oct. 30 to get them excited about the upcoming election Nov 4. Under the direction of music teacher Joyce Carroll, the students also performed prior to the school's PTO meeting Oct. 30.

Snapping nature



COURTESY PHOTO

Art teacher Sara Romanik stands with winners of the second annual photography contest for students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Oct. 2. The contest involved students took photos of nature, and teachers voted on their favorite photographs.

Winners are (back row, from left) Ryan Facer, Will Bruns, Anthony Conforti and (front row, from left) Halie Chmura, Kathryn Anderson and Valerie Schroeder.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints



My Dear Friends in Christ,

There are nearly 37 million people in the United States struggling below the poverty line, and 13 million of those are children. Poverty is caused not simply by the lack of financial resources but also by the lack of quality education, affordable housing, health care, child care, fair wages and vocational training.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has worked for the last 38 years to create permanent, community-based solutions to the problem of poverty by funding programs that promote self-sufficiency by helping the poor to help themselves.

You may have heard about the suspension of CCHD funds to an organization called the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, or read the article about the situation in the Nov. 7 edition of *The Catholic News & Herald*. This suspension is the CCHD's immediate response to financial misdoings at ACORN that came to light in June 2008.

CCHD funding to ACORN was suspended immediately and unilaterally across the country; its swift and immediate response to the ACORN situation is an indication of CCHD's sound fiscal accountability. This funding freeze will remain in effect until the situation is resolved and it can be confirmed that no CCHD funds were misdirected or misused.

Since the majority of CCHD's funding comes through its annual parish collection, which this year takes place on the weekend of Nov. 22-23, 2008, it would be unfortunate if contributions were affected by the ACORN situation. Hundreds of groups are working effectively in communities across the country with the aid of CCHD funds.

CCHD's history of careful vetting and monitoring of grantee organizations stands as a model of good stewardship. Moreover, the campaign receives wide support across the country from people who have witnessed its effectiveness in helping people to rise above poverty using resources found within their own communities, many funded by CCHD.

With today's economic uncertainties, your contribution to this year's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is more important than ever before. Thank you for your prayers and support. May Almighty God bless you for your generosity.

Respectfully,

Msgr. Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

What reduces abortions?

Law cannot solve all problems, but can tell us which solutions are unacceptable

Sometimes election years produce more policy myths than good ideas. This year one myth is about abortion.

It goes like this: The Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision is here to stay, and that's fine because laws against abortion don't reduce abortions much anyway. Rather, "support for women and families" will greatly reduce abortions, without changing the law or continuing a "divisive" abortion debate.

Various false claims are used to bolster this myth. It is said that over three-quarters of women having abortions cite expense as the most important factor in their decision.

Actually the figure is less than one-fourth: 23 percent.

It is said that abortion rates declined dramatically (30 percent) during the Clinton years, but the decline stopped under the ostensibly pro-life Bush administration.

Actually the abortion rate has dropped 30 percent from 1981 to 2005; the decline started 12 years before Clinton took office, and has continued fairly steadily to the present day.

The steepest decline is among minors. Is it plausible that economic factors reduced abortions for teens but not their older sisters, or their mothers who support them?

The reality is this: In 1980 the Supreme Court upheld the Hyde amendment, a provision barring use of federal funds to pay for abortions for low-income women, first passed by the U.S. Congress in 1976, and and federally-funded abortions went from 300,000 a year to nearly zero.

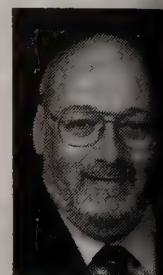
With its decisions in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* (1989) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), the Supreme Court began to uphold other abortion laws previously invalidated under *Roe v. Wade*. States passed hundreds of modest but effective laws — such as, bans on use of public funds and facilities, informed consent laws, parental involvement when minors seek abortions, etc.

The rigorous research of Dr. Michael New, a University of Alabama political science professor and senior Family Research Council fellow, has shown that these laws significantly reduce abortions.

In the 1990s, debate on partial-

Life Issues Forum

RICHARD M. DOERFLINGER
GUEST COLUMNIST



birth abortion — kept in the public eye, ironically, by President Clinton repeated vetoes of a ban on this grisly late-term procedure — alerted many Americans to the violence of abortion and shifted public attitudes in a pro-life direction, just as growing concern over AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases was giving new force to the abstinence message for teens.

Now the Supreme Court has upheld a partial-birth abortion ban, and signaled that other laws to save unborn children and their mothers from the horrors of abortion may be valid. If *Roe v. Wade* is reversed outright, that will allow more laws that can further reduce abortions.

By contrast, a pending federal Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) would knock down current laws reducing abortions and require public programs for pregnant women to fund abortion. No one supporting that bill can claim favor reducing abortions.

Many women are pressured toward abortion and they need our help. The pressures are partly, but not only partly, economic in nature. Women are influenced by husbands, boyfriend, parents and friends, and by a culture and legal system that tell them the children they carry have no rights and are of no consequences.

Law cannot solve all problems but it can tell us which solutions are unacceptable — and today, *Roe v. Wade* still teaches that killing the unborn child is an acceptable solution, even a "right."

Without ever forgetting the need to support pregnant women and their families, that tragic and unjust error must be corrected if we are to build a society that respects all human life.

Doerflinger is associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Imitating St. Francis of Assisi

Each one of us has the ability to help someone in need

After months of electioneering and small news about our financial crisis, I have the audacity to invite you to become one of God's minstrels of joy!

Minstrels are often seen as fools, so don't blame you if you decide to shrug me off.

St. Francis of Assisi once wrote: "For what else are the servants of God but his minstrels, whose work is to lift people's hearts and move them to spiritual gladness."

I pray that you will consider lifting your imagination a little bit in order to see the amazing heights of spiritual joy waiting you.

Everyone who aspires to be one of God's minstrels is already blessed by divine providence. The simple wisdom of St. Francis is that we are all called to be instruments of God's joy in this world.

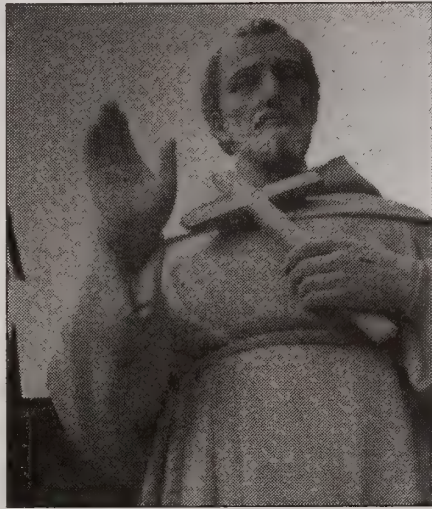
Think about this for a moment. It is an idea worthy of deep reflection.

Our mission as Christians is to carry God's love and joy with courage into our world. St. Francis had a special location to bring the spirit of gladness to those most in need.

He had a special fondness for the poor and wanted to do something to help them.

Most people tend to look away from the poor. As a result, many unfortunate souls remain lost in isolation, without any sign of love coming their way, which is why the words of St. Francis are so compelling.

Following his master Jesus Christ,



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

St. Francis wanted to do something extremely challenging. He wanted to bring the love and joy of God to those who need it most.

In his own words, he wanted to "lift people's hearts and move them to spiritual gladness."

Isn't that too difficult to accomplish? People are not open to joy when their lives are filled with misery.

How difficult can it be to be more gracious with the people we interact with each day? How difficult can it be to reach beyond our inner circle to just one other person who is sick or depressed?

Each one of us has the ability to help someone in need. According to St. Francis, our job is to cheerfully do the will of God. Even the tiniest gesture such

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



as a smile can be a way of communicating spiritual gladness.

If you want to spread God's joy, you must begin by notifying your face; in other words, the ministry of joy always begins with a smile.

Become one of God's minstrels. Embrace this challenge as a personal ministry between you and the Lord.

The wonderful thing about this grace is that the very act of spreading joy brings an increase of spiritual gladness to your own soul. Visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the distressed — these are all aspects of the ministry of joy.

When the corporal works of mercy are done joyfully, the merit is doubled.

God loves a cheerful giver. Spiritual minstrels say they are never so happy as when they get out of themselves and begin serving others.

Too great a preoccupation with self leads to sadness. Think of others.

If you are looking for a new mission in life, why not consider following St. Francis of Assisi?

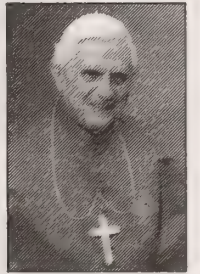
Dedicate yourself to elevating people's hearts to gladness.

Spreading God's love and joy is a sure formula for increasing your own spiritual joy.

Pope urges Christians to pray for changes in world of violence, fear

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICANCITY(CNS)—Christians must pray that Jesus comes into the lives of those who are suffering from selfishness and violence, including those in Congo and Sudan, said Pope Benedict XVI.

At his Nov. 12 weekly general audience, the pope focused on St. Paul's teaching about Jesus' second coming and how Christians are to live while waiting for the end of time.

In St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle used the words "Marana, tha!" or "Come, Lord Jesus" to indicate how this ancient Christian prayer shows the joyful expectation of Jesus' return and the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation, said the pope.

The pope said it was probably very difficult for people today "to sincerely pray that this world perish, that the new Jerusalem come, that the Last Judgment arrive."

"Certainly we don't want the end of the world to come now, but on the other hand we do want this unjust world to come to an end and we do want the world to be fundamentally changed," he said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now turn from his proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection to his teaching on the Lord's second coming.

For Paul, the Lord's return at the end of time will be accompanied by the resurrection of the dead and the consummation of his Kingdom, when all those who believed in him and trusted in his promises "will be with him for ever" in glory (cf. 1 Thess 4:17).

Christ's victorious reign has in fact already begun. Yet we, who have received the Spirit as the first fruits of our redemption, patiently await the fulfillment of that plan in our lives.

Our life in this world, marked by trials and tribulations, must be inspired by the hope of heaven and the expectation of our resurrection to glory.

Paul's rich eschatology, linking the "already" of Christ's resurrection to the "not yet" of our life in this world, is reflected in his statement that "in hope we were saved" (Rom 8:24).

This same joyful expectation of the Lord's return and the fulfillment of the Father's saving plan is seen in the ancient Christian prayer with which he concludes his first Letter to the Corinthians: Maranà, tha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Signs of the times in need of our prophetic gifts

Christians must respond, bring aid to the suffering

It was the most moving news report I have seen recently!

The "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" featured workers emptying a home in foreclosure. The family who lost their home left all their belongings and just disappeared.

Furniture, computers and a number of personal items such as family pictures were left behind. One of the workers picked up a doll and showed it to the television crew.

"I don't enjoy this work," he said. This doll was the favorite toy of some child. It went to bed with her and was her companion throughout the day."

Another worker commented, "When people leave behind memorabilia, it is a sign of depression."

As other workers expressed similar sentiments, I wondered where these people were ending up. Were they being housed by friends or relatives, or were they just wandering around the country aimlessly?

This is one of many serious signs of the times that show we are in a depression. Perhaps it isn't a financial depression, but for many it is a nightmare that is causing psychological depression.

In moments like this, what is our Christian responsibility?

In baptism, we received the gift of prophecy. Most of us don't reflect on this, and if we do we usually feel that religious people, like the prophets of the Old Testament, are mainly responsible for practicing it.

And what is the "it" they practice? The prophets were God's mouthpieces. They did not foretell the future, but rather they discerned the signs of the times and God's will for them.

They were like sociologists who study societal trends to learn if they are going in the right direction.

Not only this, when the prophets saw the Israelites going in the wrong direction, they vigorously spoke out against it and admonished those in authority, urging

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



them to change the situation.

As baptized Christians, it is our duty to read the signs of the times. St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that this is similar to practicing prudence, which he defines as "looking from afar."

At the moment, many people are suffering financial and psychological depression. As Christians, it is our baptismal responsibility to discern this and to come to their aid.

Sometimes this requires taking on political ramifications, marches and picketing. At other times, it requires opening our homes and dinner tables to the less fortunate.

When something is distasteful, it is a natural tendency to put it out of our minds. The signs of the times are prompting us to practice our gift of prophecy like never before and to make them foremost on our minds.

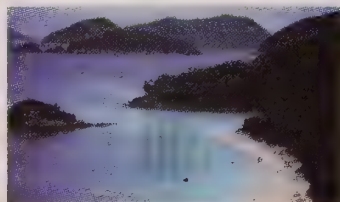


CNS PHOTO BY AMMAR AWAD, REUTERS

Israeli police officers scuffle with members of the Armenian and Greek Orthodox clergies of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem Nov. 9. A brawl broke out at the traditional site of Jesus' burial when Greek Orthodox and Armenian believers, who fiercely protect their hold over sections of the shrine, traded blows. Two clerics were arrested after the fistfight erupted in the church.

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Scuffle in the Sepulcher

Franciscan: Brawl at Holy Sepulcher shows confusion over agreements

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — The brawl that erupted Nov. 9 between Armenian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox clergymen at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher never should have happened and is the result of people not knowing what is in the Status Quo agreements, said a Franciscan official.

The 19th-century agreements include many oral traditions or customary law, but often each Christian community has its own codes, and clashes and contradictions occur, said U.S. Franciscan Father Athanasius Macora, who monitors the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

"People don't know the Status Quo. Because there is no shared code ... there are problems," he said, noting that the Status Quo committee meets weekly to discuss areas of disagreement.

"I hope we can all reconcile and get back to work," he said.

The Status Quo agreements regulate the jurisdiction of and access to key Christian sites in Jerusalem for Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian communities. Among those sites is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where tradition holds that Jesus was buried.

"There are huge areas of cooperation and good will, but what happened is very damaging for all of us," said Father Macora.

The Franciscans "were not at all involved, but (the incident) is damaging for everybody," he emphasized.

The altercation broke out next to the traditional site of Jesus' tomb during an

annual Armenian Orthodox procession commemorating the fourth-century discovery of the cross believed to have been used to crucify Jesus.

The feud was sparked by the Greek Orthodox demand to post a monk inside the ancient structure built over the site of Jesus' tomb. When the Armenian Orthodox refused to admit the Greek Orthodox monk, more Greek monks blocked their path, and the melee ensued.

Israeli police rushed in to separate the fighting monks, arresting one Armenian and one Greek.

No pilgrims present at the procession were injured, said Father Macora, and sporadic altercations should not affect visits to the church.

Although there have been such confrontations in the past — on Palm Sunday Armenian and Greek priests and pilgrims also exchanged blows — Father Macora, who is originally from Texas, said such altercations are "anomalies."

Disagreements about the Status Quo also have prevented the Israeli Ministry of Tourism from building an emergency exit and have prevented repairs from being carried out on the rooftop Ethiopian Orthodox monastery.

Father Macora said that as the negotiator for the Franciscans he tries to avoid such confrontations by careful study of the actual Status Quo agreements before making any claims.

The last serious confrontations involving the Franciscans and the Greek Orthodox occurred four years ago, he said, adding that in general the Franciscans are known to have good relations with both the Armenians and the Greeks.



CNS PHOTO BY AMMAR AWAD, REUTERS

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City of Jerusalem, as seen in this April 9, 2006 photo, is built on the site believed to be the burial place of Jesus. A brawl broke out when Greek Orthodox and Armenian believers, who fiercely protect their hold over sections of the shrine, traded blows. Police said two clerics were arrested after a fistfight erupted during a procession of worshippers in the church.

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Social tolerance is the
new politically correct;
deterioration of moral values;
letters to the editor

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NOVEMBER 21, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 4

Considering the human side'

Economic downturn
brings call for extension
of unemployment
benefits

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Behind
the grim statistics about the
nation's rising jobless rate are
men and women who need help,
according to Catholic Church
officials and economists at
Catholic universities.

One immediate response to
the nation's high unemployment
rate should be an extension of
unemployment benefits, said
Tom Shellabarger, domestic
policy adviser for the U.S.
Bishops' Department of
Justice, Peace and Human
Development.

Shellabarger called it

See BENEFITS, page 9

Resourceful and generous

Catholic survivor
of Great Depression
has not lost hope
in economy

BY ED LANGLOIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PORTLAND, Ore. —
Although Mary Barnes did
not know much about the
1929 stock market crash that
occurred when she was 5, she
knew something was awry in
the world.

Barnes, born Mary Oster,
and her seven siblings, were
shielded from the family's

See HOPE, page 8

Good eats and good deeds



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Members of the parish young adult group dish out hot dogs and chili to Carolina Panthers' fans in front of St. Peter Church in Charlotte Nov. 16. The church's Garden of Eat'n has become quite a draw for Panthers' fans on home-game days and has raised more than \$90,000 for the charities since it began 12 years ago.

Parish helps local charities through game day hot dog sales

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — On a
crisp Sunday morning in uptown
Charlotte, streams of fans clad
in Carolina Panthers blue and
black made their way toward
Bank of America Stadium for
the one o'clock game.

Along the way, many
stopped for what was quite
possibly the best deal in town
on a pre-game hot dog.

The "dollar dogs" at St.
Peter Church's Garden of Eat'n
have become quite a draw for
Panthers' fans on home-game
days and all the proceeds go to
local charitable organizations.

The ministry has raised
more than \$90,000 for the
charities since it began
12 years ago.

Volunteers sell about 1,000

See HOT DOGS, page 4

'Rediscovering the soul of our area'

St. Matthew Church donates \$100,000
to help homeless

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For
parishioners of St. Matthew
Church in Charlotte, "attitude
of gratitude" has become more
than just a favorite catch phrase
of their pastor, Msgr. John
McSweeney.

During the past year, those

words were put to action with
the collection of \$100,000 to
help the homeless of Mecklen-
burg and Union counties.

The funds were distributed
to 20 human services
organizations that support the
needs of the homeless during a

See SERVICE, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Msgr. John McSweeney gives a check to a representative from the Salvation Army during a presentation at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Nov. 19. Parishioners collected \$100,000 to help the homeless in Mecklenburg and Union counties.

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Discerning the diaconate
Upcoming sessions for men
considering life as deacons

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Culture Watch

Books on saints; singing
priests nab record deal

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Daschle chosen

President-elect Obama picks
Catholic to serve in cabinet

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FROM PLAYING CATCH TO CHAMPION



CNS PHOTO BY BRIAN PICKERING, THE TIDINGS

Gene Detmer of Arcadia, Calif., poses with his grandson Philadelphia Phillies relief pitcher Brad Lidge in late August. Lidge, who struck out Eric Hinske of the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Rays to clinch the 2008 World Series Oct. 29, was "a very gutsy guy" in the playoffs, said his grandfather.

Grandfather an inspiration for Phillies star on and off the field

ARCADIA, Calif. (CNS) — Philadelphia Phillies relief pitcher Brad Lidge, who struck out Eric Hinske of the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Rays to clinch the 2008 World Series Oct. 29, was "a very gutsy guy" in the playoffs, said his grandfather, Gene Detmer of Arcadia, Calif.

The 85-year-old retiree was thinking of Lidge's two crucial saves in the Phillies' 4-1 series win.

"To get behind a hitter doesn't throw him off stride. He's very disciplined. And from that point of view, he's thinking this is not the time to panic — this is the time to bear down," Detmer said.

Detmer recalled visiting his grandson in Denver, where the young man grew up in St. Thomas More Church and served as an altar boy.

During one of those trips, the then-4-year-old ran up to him and exclaimed, "I'm gonna play baseball." He and Brad promptly proceeded to the backyard, where Grandpa rolled a ball to his beaming grandson.

Lidge became a pitcher and later earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. After his junior-year season, he was a first-round draft pick by the Houston Astros in 1998.

Lidge played in the minor leagues and made his major league debut in 2002 against the Atlanta Braves.

By the summer 2004, the Astros had moved him from setup man to closer, and he set a National League relievers' record with 157 strikeouts.

In 2006, he seemed to lose some of his confidence and the following year he lost his closer's role. Before the 2008 season Lidge was traded to the Phillies.

After a late spring start because of a knee injury and subsequent surgery,

something almost magical happened. His four-seam fastball was back up to 96 mph and his hard slider was breaking sharper than ever. Lidge was named 2008 Major League Baseball Comeback Player of the Year.

Even his baseball aficionado grandfather was truly awed.

"I knew he was delighted to be traded, because the good Lord was watching over him," Detmer said.

For his part, Lidge credits his grandfather for much of his success on the ball field.

"One of the best memories I have growing up is being outside in his front yard in Pasadena and playing catch with him," he said.

He said he was inspired by his grandfather's baseball knowledge and treasure trove of memorabilia, but he has had an impact on the player's life overall.

"He's been a big role model for me in terms of my beliefs and shaping my values and morals," Lidge said. "He's been a big influence on me. Just to hear his wisdom and how he just goes about describing things day to day, he's classic."

He described his grandfather as "generous and accommodating."

"It's very inspiring for me to have such a great example. I hope when I'm his age I can give back the way he does, too," he said.

Detmer is somewhat amazed — and more than a little proud — that his grandson, the jock, is studying online for a degree in religious studies from Jesuit-run Regis University in Denver, and has plans to earn a doctorate in religious history so he can teach at the university level when his playing days are done.

FBI investigating white powder mailed to Knights' headquarters

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — A mailroom and printing plant at the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven remained closed Nov. 14 while the local FBI office investigated a white powder contained in an envelope mailed from California.

David Rhieu, chief division counsel at the FBI office in New Haven, said Nov. 14 that the testing of the powder will be completed within 48 hours and "the results will be released to the victim, the Knights of Columbus."

Rhieu said that while the investigation was ongoing he could not comment on whether the letter containing the powder could be linked to similar envelopes received at the national headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City and a Mormon temple in Los Angeles.

Patrick Korten, Knights of Columbus vice president for communications, told

Catholic News Service Nov. 14 that the letter was received in the Knights mailroom on the morning of Nov. 13 and "produced a white powder when opened."

Local police and fire officials were notified and eventually the FBI was brought in, he said.

"Three individuals were decontaminated" following the incident and the mailroom and printing plant were to remain closed until Monday Korten said.

The Knights of Columbus and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were major financial supporters of California's Proposition 8, which amends the state constitution to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The amendment was approved, 52 percent to 48 percent, Nov. 4.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The St. Eugene Church Taize Prayer Ministry hosts a Taize prayer service the first Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthias Church, 1 Dundee St. Taize is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call Megan at (828) 285-0838 or Janet at (828) 251-5513.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for deceased spouses will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. A reception hosted by the Women's Club will follow. Those who would like to light a candle in memory of a spouse are invited to do so in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host the Park Road Community of Churches annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Neighboring churches will be invited to join for prayer, song, Scriptures and

a special Thanksgiving message. The gathering will take place in the church sanctuary. A reception will follow in the activity center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — "A Faith Response to Uncertain Economic Times" will be held in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. The St. Gabriel parish community would like to hear your concerns about the current economic situation in our county and its affects on our community. All are invited, especially those who have recently lost jobs or are worried about job security. Come and see how the church can be of support. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 6212 Tuckaseegee Rd., will celebrate a Mass in English beginning Saturday, Dec. 6, at 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is a predominantly Spanish-speaking parish that wishes to reach out to English-speaking Catholics in western Mecklenburg County. For more information, call the church office at (704) 391-3732.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will host "The Birth of Jesus 101 — Faith vs. Fact," an Advent reflection, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Deacon Jeff Evers will lead the reflection with a retelling of the Christmas story. Lunch will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a canned good to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., will participate in the National Night of Prayer for Life Dec. 8 following the 7:30 p.m. Mass commemorating the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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NOVEMBER 21, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 4

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope: Church must strengthen efforts to educate Catholics in politics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must strengthen its efforts to educate and assist lay Catholics involved in politics so that the positions they hold and the policies they promote reflect the values of the faith they profess, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting members of the Pontifical Council for the Laity Nov. 15, the pope emphasized the need to educate lay Catholics to play their proper role in building a world of justice, charity and protection of human rights.

"In a special way, I reaffirm the necessity and urgency of the evangelical formation and pastoral accompaniment of a new generation of Catholics involved in politics, that they would be coherent with their professed faith," morally upright, professional and passionate about serving the common good, he said.

Laypeople are called to fulfill their mission as followers and witnesses to Christ in government, social life,

workplaces, schools and families, the pope said.

"Every environment, circumstance and activity in which we hope will shine the unity between faith and life is entrusted to the responsibility of the lay faithful, moved by a desire to communicate the gift of encountering Christ and the certainty of the dignity of the human person," the pope said.

Pope Benedict also praised the council for the laity's commitment to promoting the dignity and participation of women in the church and in the world.

"Man and woman, equal in dignity, are called to enrich each other in communion and collaboration, not only in marriage and family life, but also in society," he said.

"One can never say enough about how much the church recognizes, appreciates and values the participation of women in its mission of spreading the Gospel," the pope said.

Mary. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 8:30 p.m. followed by recitation of the rosary at the top of every hour. The night of prayer will end at 1 a.m. with Benediction. For more information call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* Recollection for Men will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* Recollection for Women will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession and Mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m. For more information, contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

CHARLOTTE — A *Monday morning Adult Spirituality series* takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "Watching and Waiting with Advent Hope: Becoming a New Creation in Christ," will be held Dec. 1. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in

sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant midday prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — All are invited to attend the *annual Thanksgiving Celebration* at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, in the parish center, Nov. 27, 12-3 p.m. The event is free. Bring your family and friends and join us for wonderful food and fellowship. Transportation is available for anyone who needs a ride. Meal deliveries are available for those who cannot go to the parish hall. For more information, call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church in Clemmons is hosting a new *Homeschool Enrichment Program for Catholic homeschooling families* starting in January. The program will allow Catholic families to come together for the rosary, liturgy and other activities. Enrichment classes are free and available for students in prekindergarten through middle school. For more information, call Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican newspaper says economic experts are confusing consumers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the midst of a financial situation of great uncertainty, consumers have a right to be confused, said an article in the Vatican newspaper.

Too many so-called experts are telling consumers "the infallible remedy for overcoming the risk of poverty caused by the economic crisis under way" is to "spend, consume and go into debt to keep the economy going," said the article in *L'Osservatore Romano*.

But, the Nov. 17 article said, basically what those people are saying is that "to overcome the crisis it is necessary to continue the same behavior that provoked it, that is consumption and indebtedness."

The article was written by Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian banker and a professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan.

He said people are right to be confused and even frightened when the same experts encouraging them to keep spending say that "a recession is under way and the worst is yet to come."

"Is it better, then, to consume to keep up demand or to save knowing that difficult times are ahead?" he asked.

The banker called on governments to be clearer about the conditions and demands they will place on financial institutions and industries asking for a bailout, "because otherwise the ones who will pay, as usual, are those who have savings accounts," mainly working individuals and families.

The front-page article appeared over a news story about the Nov. 15 meeting in Washington of the Group of 20 — the world's leading industrial countries, the European Union and several so-called emerging economies.

The article said that, while the presidents and prime ministers participating in the G-20 meeting expressed satisfaction with promises made to overcome the financial crisis, "in the final communique there is no reference to the poorest countries, those truly in the eye of the storm in this crisis" because of increased prices on food and the raw materials their struggling industries need.

The Vatican newspaper article said finding a solution will take time and "all eyes are turned to London" where the G-20 will meet again April 30, but this time with Barack Obama as president of the United States.

Return of an icon



CNS PHOTO BY YIORGOS KARAHALIS, REUTERS

A Greek Orthodox nun stands next to a 14th-century icon, "Descent from the Cross," Nov. 19 after it was returned to Greece. The icon was stolen from a monastery in northern Greece 30 years ago. In 2002 it was located in London and, following a long trial, was returned to Athens.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 2 (1 p.m.)
Blessing of Catholic sections of cemetery
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Dec. 4 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 6 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for aspirants of diocesan diaconate formation program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 7 (5 p.m.)
Installation of Father Paul Gary as pastor
St. Luke Church, Mint Hill



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PHOTOS BY KATIE MOORE

Carolina Panthers' fans wait in line to get their hot dogs at St. Peter Church's Garden of Eat'n in Charlotte Nov. 16. The "dollar dogs" have become quite a draw for Panthers' fans on home-game days, and all the proceeds go to local charitable organizations.



Parish helps local charities through game day hot dog sales

HOT DOGS, from page 1

hot dogs a Sunday, according to Tom Crozier, one of the organizers who started the ministry during the Panthers' first season in Charlotte in 1996.

With the location of the church lending it to high pedestrian traffic on game days, "we had to do something," he said.

"I like that all the benefits go to agencies that are here in town," said Lou Bonaiuto, an 11-year volunteer.

"A lot of people come here because of that. They like the idea that they are enjoying a hot dog and their money is going to a good cause," he said.

But most come because you can't beat the price, said Rose Zukiewicz, who has been volunteering since 2000.

Garden of Eat'n offers a simple menu: hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks, all for a suggested donation of \$1 each. Chili and other condiments are available to dress up the dogs.

"It's a really work-intensive ministry," said Zukiewicz.

Preparation begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings with the biggest rush between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The dogs are cooked on a grill right out in front of the church, placed in buns, wrapped in foil and kept in warmers in the church basement. Many take the food to go, but there are tables available for those who want to sit down and eat.

"People rave about it," said Crozier.

Organizations that have benefited from the proceeds include Catholic Social Services, Thomasboro Elementary School, Urban Ministry Center, McCreesh Place and the Emergency Winter Shelter.

Contributions were sent also to a Catholic parish in New York City following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and to relief efforts in New Orleans following the devastation by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

Discerning the diaconate?

Upcoming sessions mandatory for potential permanent deacons

HICKORY — Men considering becoming permanent deacons must attend one of two upcoming information sessions.

The sessions will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Potential candidates must first attend one of the two sessions to be considered for the permanent diaconate.

As ordained ministers in the Catholic Church, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various liturgies. In the Diocese of Charlotte, many deacons visit prisons regularly to offer Communion services, Bible studies and counseling to the incarcerated within the diocese.

The sessions will describe the responsibilities of the permanent deacon, the aspirancy and formation programs, the application requirements and anticipated class dates.

Wives of men who are considering the permanent diaconate must attend the session with their husbands.

The sessions will be presented in English, with Spanish language assistance for Spanish speakers. Child care will not be available.

Permanent diaconate

Basic requirements must be met to become part of the Diocese of Charlotte's permanent diaconate program.

Candidates 1) must have completed or be currently enrolled in the diocese's lay ministry program or SEPI, 2) must not be older than 65 in 2015, nor younger than 35 in 2011, 3) must have been a Catholic for at least five years, and 4) must be a legal, permanent resident of the United States.

The formation program is four years. Classes are held at the Catholic Conference Center Friday evening and all day Saturday twice a month beginning in September and ending in late May or early June. There are summer assignments to be completed in the candidates' churches.

For more information, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/deacons.html.

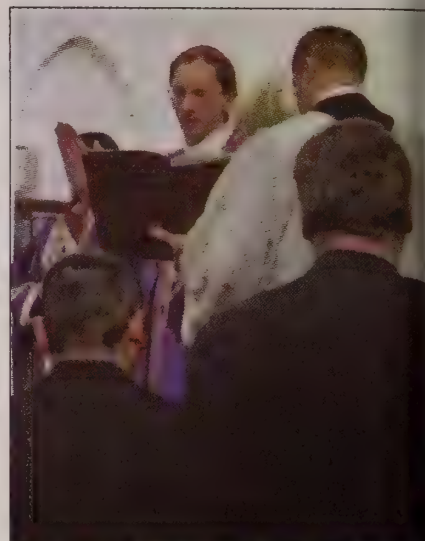


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis addresses candidates for the permanent diaconate during the rite of candidacy at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 1.

WANT TO GO?

Sessions are held 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Jan. 10. To register, contact Deacon Scott Gilfillan at deacon.scott@att.net or Deacon George Szalony at gszalony@msn.com.

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St. Matthew Church donates \$100,000 to help homeless

SERVICE, from page 1

"St. Matthew Church has been a wonderful source of support, both emotionally and financially ..."

— Karen Andrews

conducted by teenagers of the parish, and the rebate of funds collected for the annual Diocesan Support Appeal that exceeded the parish goal.

"Pennies from Heaven" was a challenge from Msgr. McSweeney to his parishioners to save a penny per day, per family member from June to September.

The pennies were collected at the weekend Masses Sept. 20-21 and totaled \$23,000.

During the Nov. 19 presentation, Msgr. McSweeney issued a challenge to other faith-based communities "to truly respond to the needs of different agencies that so generously and graciously serve the poor in our area."

"We have vehicles in place with different organizations that bring together the power that is here today," he said.

One of the organizations benefiting from the distribution was Catholic Social Services.

"This gift from St. Matthew Parish to Catholic Social Services clearly



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Representatives from 20 human services organizations in Mecklenburg and Union counties surround Msgr. John McSweeney in front of the altar at St. Matthew Church Nov. 19. Parishioners collected \$100,000 to help the homeless in the community; the money was divided among the 20 organizations.

reflects a faith community with an incredibly generous and responsive spirit that has been extended not only to CSS but to a broad spectrum of agencies also dealing with a near crisis in service delivery to the growing needy and homeless in our community," said Geri King, director of the CSS Charlotte Regional Office.

Another recipient organization was Catherine's House in Belmont, a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides transitional housing to women and women with children who are homeless.

"We have been so awed by their generosity," said Karen Andrews, president and CEO of

Catherine's House.

"St. Matthew Church has been a wonderful source of support, both emotionally and financially, to this ministry and we are very grateful to Monsignor and all the parishioners there," she said.

The long-term goal is to go from homelessness to self-sufficiency, according to Msgr. McSweeney.

"I challenge all to truly work together to rebuild and rediscover the soul of our area," he said. "What we do here is all for the honor and glory of almighty God."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

Seeking healing and forgiveness after an abortion?

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The Charlotte Diocese Respect Life Program of Catholic Social Services offers help to both men and women at 704-370-3229 or mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - Dec. 5-7

You may also want to visit Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org for helpful articles, retreat information and other direction to new hope and meaning for your future.



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U.S. Catholics Key To Bringing "Sweeping Positive Change" To Haiti's Desperately Poor Rural Villages

After visiting the desperately poor families who live in the rural parts of Haiti, Msgr. Michael Flanagan has dedicated himself to rallying support in America for their urgent needs.

Msgr. Flanagan believes that he and other Americans can play a unique role in the recovery of Haiti's impoverished countryside. He urges U.S. Catholics to seize this opportunity to help this sister parish overseas.

"In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gave us a preview of the final judgment, and the power of those words burned in my soul as I walked through the rural villages of Haiti," Msgr. Flanagan said. "When Jesus related the last judgment of mankind, he made the shocking revelation — that help given to the poor would equate to help given to him, and that those who ignored the poor would be judged as if they had ignored Christ himself. The connection to Haiti is obvious to all who will listen. These destitute villages are where Christ abides today. He is there among the poor, calling for our help."

Flanagan also encourages Catholics to see the Judgment story in Matthew as a blessing rather than as a source of anxiety or fear.

"Who among us wouldn't be joyful to serve our Lord if he were to appear here among us now? We shouldn't see our actions in Haiti as simply feeding a child here or building a home for a poor family there. We should see our outreach as a loving response to Jesus himself. That's what's so amazing about our Lord's revelation in Matthew 25. He is showing us a tangible way to demonstrate our love for him here and now — in our modern world," Flanagan said.

"What could be more inspiring than that?"

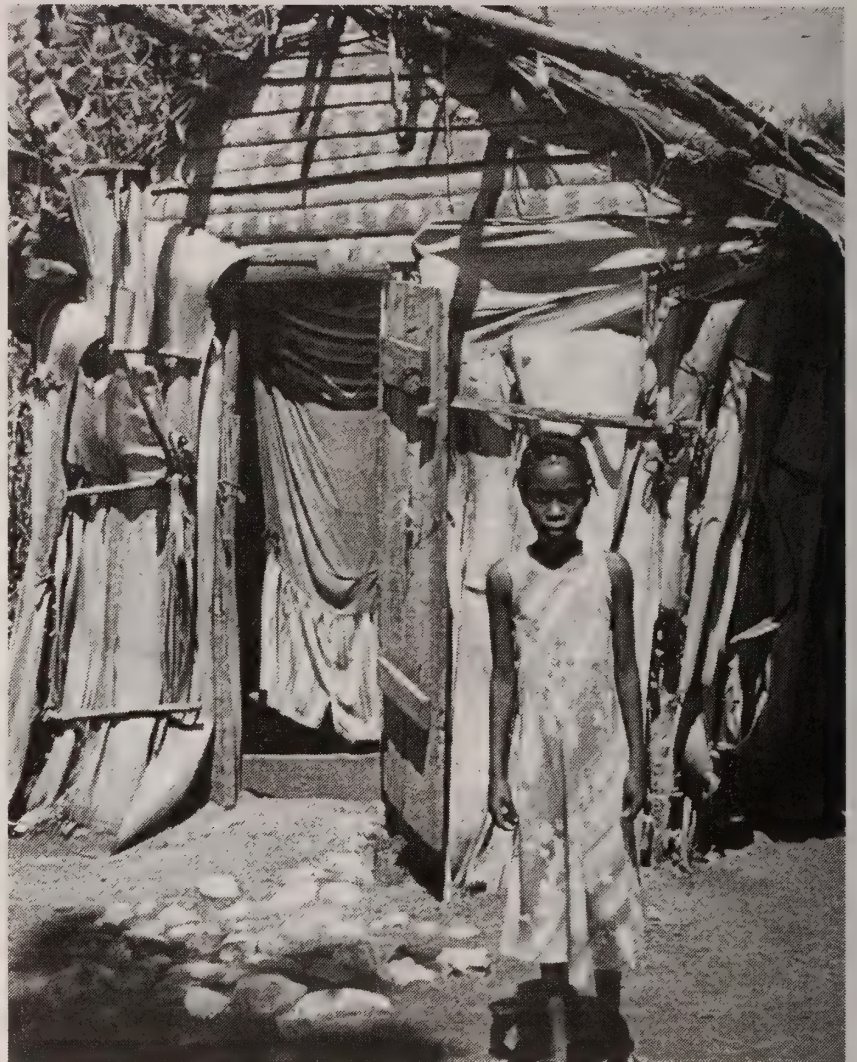
Flanagan also pointed to other key verses in scripture that magnify the importance of the poor in God's plan for blessing his people.

"Isaiah 58:5-11 is another powerful passage. It explains that we are most pleasing to God when we help the needy and bring relief to the poor," he said. "And it contains a powerful promise to those who reach out in compassion — 'then your light will break forth like the dawn and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!' As Catholics, we rightfully respect the Eucharist and other Sacraments as important means of grace. Here, God is showing us another way we can be blessed — by responding in love to people in need."

Ultimately, a generous response from American Catholics to the needs in rural areas of Haiti could have a tremendous impact, he added.

"If we rise to this occasion and help the poor in these troubled spots in Haiti, we can create sweeping positive changes in those villages. The sick can be healed, the hungry fed — lives literally can be saved," Msgr. Flanagan said. "Remember Matthew 25:31-46. When you feed the hungry and care for the sick in Haiti, you will be responding to Christ himself!"

To support Cross and its special outreach programs throughout Haiti, send your tax-deductible contribution to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00518, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



Thomonde housing — a leaky patchwork of canvas, old plastic and scraps of wood.

Cross International Meets Needs of Haiti Hurricane Victims

In less than a month Haiti felt the impact of four major storms. They devastated cities and towns all over the country, claiming at least 600 lives and leaving thousands without homes or food. Within hours of the first storm's impact, Cross International Catholic Outreach sent thousands of dollars in cash grants to Catholic ministries in the country so they could purchase immediate necessities.

After Tropical Storm Hanna blew by Haiti — dropping sheets of rain and wind that caused flash floods and washed out roads — Cross responded by airlifting food and clean water to Gonaives where people called for help from rooftops where they had climbed to escape more than 12 feet of water.

Widespread flooding from Tropical Storm Hanna and later Hurricane Ike has left many areas completely under water. Around 70 percent of the country's crops have been destroyed, causing Haiti's already-high food prices to spike even higher, and places where homes used to stand are now piles of rubble.

In the months ahead Haiti confronts the massive task of rebuilding, as those who have lost their homes and livelihood start from scratch to survive. The latest estimate is that 86,000 people have been seriously affected by the hurricanes, while hundreds of thousands require some level of aid.

"People have been coming to us steadily for help. They need money to bury their dead.

They need food, shelter, clothes, anything — because everything they have is gone," said Gladys Mecklenbourg, who operates a Cross-sponsored orphanage and school for poor children in the Montrouis area, near Port-au-Prince.

Working with several Catholic ministries throughout the country, Cross has turned its efforts to aid in building homes and providing for the long-term recovery needs so many



face in the wake of the devastating storms.

"We have been working through our ministry contacts in Haiti to assess the long-term needs of their communities. Cross is committed to helping them rebuild," said Jim Cavnar, Cross president. "With the help of our faithful donors and other compassionate American Catholics, we can help thousands

get their lives back."

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Cross International Catholic Outreach and its outreach overseas, use either the enclosed postage-paid brochure or send donations to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00518, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

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Missionaries Seek Support For Their Efforts to Help Haiti's Poor

"Before God sent the missionaries here, we had lost hope," says Roland Dersaint, a 36-year-old father of three. "The children here in Kobonal were dying of sicknesses. Many families were surviving only by eating green mangos. But it wasn't enough to save the weakest. We often saw families walking down the road with tiny coffins — sometimes as many as five little ones would be buried in a single day."

A few years ago, Roland and Mary Dersaint pulled a tiny coffin of their own down the long dirt road. Inside was their nine-month old baby, Rosalie.

"Typhoid took her," Roland explains, looking away to hide his grief.

In the years before the missionaries came, circumstances like these defined life — and death — in Kobonal, Haiti. This isolated section of Haiti's Central Plateau is plagued by hunger, illness and the other marks of extreme poverty. In fact, before the missionaries came, as many as one out of three children died before reaching age five.

Roland and Mary Dersaint's story of loss is very typical in this part of Haiti, according to Father Glen Meaux. When Fr. Meaux and other members of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) came to Kobonal from America more than 10 years ago, they were shocked by the severity of poverty in the Central Plateau. In fact, as the group was driving up to the Kobonal villages for the very first time, they passed a group of families with tiny coffins coming down from the mountains to bury their children.

"It was heartbreaking, but it was also an important experience for us because it humbled us and showed us how difficult life is for the poor. It taught us that our ministry to preach the Gospel must also include a significant outreach to the poor," Fr. Meaux explains.

In the years since, the missionaries have worked hard to bring both the Gospel's hope — and Christ's ministry of mercy — to the struggling families living in Kobonal. At times, they have faced serious, even life-threatening challenges.

"We had some extremely difficult days in the beginning," Fr. Meaux recalls. "The voodoo priests didn't want us in Kobonal, and the poverty we all lived in made it very hard for everyone involved. But this is where God wanted us, and we set our minds and spirits on doing His will," she says. "Today, voodoo is no longer practiced in the areas we serve, and the poor have new hope. God has been good! Because we made a commitment to Him and remained faithful, He has blessed the work of our hands. That's how we see it."

The fact that these missionaries have given up comfortable lives in America to help the poor in Haiti is a testament to their strong faith and abiding love of Christ.

"God created us all — Americans and Haitians. And Christ died for us all. We are all brothers and sisters; His children. As brothers and sisters, we should love one another and share what we have with those

in need," the priest explains. "That is what motivates us. And, frankly, it should motivate every Catholic. Expressing compassion and serving others are at the very heart of the Gospel. As Catholics, we preach it and we should be living it out."

When the Kobonal Mission was founded, Father Meaux first sought to eliminate the hunger and malnutrition that plagued Haiti's Central Plateau. His group launched a special program to provide food for the poorest of the poor, including vulnerable women and young children. That program was recently expanded through support from Cross International Catholic Outreach and its family of donors.

After responding to this basic human need for food, the missionaries looked for ways to create a lasting change in the area — ways to help the poor break the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient.



Fr. Glen working with a Haitian farmer.

"We discovered that many poor families wanted to grow crops, but they had no land of their own to cultivate. We looked for ways to acquire land and to supply these families with the help they needed to begin a small farm," the priest explains.

This idea impresses Cross International Catholic Outreach's president, Jim Cavnar, and he hopes to encourage American Catholics to support the project.

"When I heard about their plans to help these poor families, I immediately thought of that powerful passage in Isaiah 58, where the Lord promises to bless those who respond to the poor with compassion. From verse 6, it reads: 'This, rather, is the fasting I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.' The Kobonal Mission exemplifies this spirit of mercy in action," Cavnar says. "Cross seeks out partners like this — ministries that are clearly led by the spirit of God, and leaders who find innovative ways to address the needs of the poor."

Cavnar went on to explain the details of



the Kobonal Mission farming project.

"Through this program, a poor family receives a half-acre plot of fertile land and a simple but sturdy house. They also get a small subsidy to purchase tools and seeds for the first few years, after which point the farm will allow them to be self-sufficient," Cavnar explained. "The amazing thing is the cost. The total budget for the package is just \$6,070 — that's all it takes to provide a family with a small home, land and the tools to begin a little farm."

On behalf of the Kobonal Mission, Cross International Catholic Outreach will be approaching American Catholics and U.S. parishes with this appeal, hoping to find enough sponsors to fund all 41 Haitian families that the missionaries have identified for help in the first phase of the project.

"You need not sponsor the full amount to make a meaningful difference. Every gift, large or small, is important to our goal. For example, a gift of \$40 covers the start-up expense for the farm, providing the seed and

the use of the oxen to till the land," Cavnar explains. "So you can give \$40 and know that your gift has had a big impact on the lives of these desperately poor families."

Broken down, the various parts of the outreach include: \$500 for the half acre of land; \$5,500 for the house; \$40 for the first year subsidy, and \$20 and \$10 for the second and final year's support.

"We're asking American Catholics to prayerfully consider making a substantial gift to help these Catholic missionaries," Cavnar says. "Father Meaux and his group have a wonderful heart and an amazing plan to help Haiti's poor, but they can't achieve their goals without our help. We need to do our part."

The priest raises his face to heaven, thankful that Cross International Catholic Outreach and its family of benefactors in the U.S. will continue to help the Kobonal Mission develop its outreach to the poor.

"Praise God!" he says. Then bowing his head as if in prayer, he quietly adds, "What a blessing this will be for Kobonal. These poor families have suffered for too long."

How to Help...

Your help is needed for Cross International to bring Christ's mercy to the poor of Haiti. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00518, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063. **God bless you.**





CNS PHOTO BY ED LANGLOIS, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Mary Barnes, a survivor of the Great Depression, holds a photo at her home in Portland, Ore., in late October. Barnes says she emerged from the Great Depression cautious and appreciative.

Catholic survivor of Great Depression has not lost hope in economy

PRAYERS, from page 1

budget woes by their parents.

But on the family farm in South Dakota, dust smothered the crops, and one year when plants actually grew the air was thick with grasshoppers. She also remembers many hungry-looking men and women wandering past the farm looking for work.

Now 85, Barnes lives in decidedly undusty Portland, where she raised four children of her own. When she recommends the need to be thrifty, her brood teases her for having "a Depression mentality."

"I think we're more cautious and we're more frugal," Barnes said of her generation. "Also, we are more appreciative of the things we have. We used it up, wore it out and made do."

Her health is excellent; she suffers a few aches and pains and a little blood pressure irregularity. Most days, she walks 18 blocks to St. Ignatius Church in Portland for daily Mass.

As an economic dip not unlike what happened in the 1930s bears down on the United States, Barnes is unperturbed. Many of Oregon's elderly have fretted considerably as the 2008 stock drop has cut into their retirement savings, but Barnes is confident it will bounce back.

She has not bothered looking at her investments, much less moved them.

Many economists agree with Barnes that there will be short-term pain, but that the markets will recover in the next two years. There are safeguards in place to prevent a financial cataclysm like the Great Depression, they say.

"Let's hope so," Barnes said.

Looking back at her growing-up years, Barnes said the family farm was seven miles from the nearest town, which had 100 residents.

The farmhouse had no electricity in the Depression years. She never liked the outhouse and heartily welcomed indoor plumbing when it finally came. Like her sisters, she was a tomboy who milked cows and worked in the fields.

"I really don't know how we

managed," Barnes said.

The family had ample food, maybe because they butchered their own meat, raised chickens, baked their own bread and grew vegetables and fruit when the weather allowed. The mother churned butter and sold it to the store for credit.

"Everybody lived pretty simply," she said, "but everyone was in same boat."

To get by, people helped one another. Her father hired workers, mostly farm youths from big families. The Osters took them in, fed them and tended to their clothing.

When dust storms appeared on the horizon, her mother would light a candle and huddle with her children to recite the rosary. As fierce as the summer sandstorms were, winter brought deep snowdrifts that did not melt until April.

Barnes recalled listening to radio programs with her family and hearing results from the 1932 presidential election. She was confident that the new president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, would change American lives profoundly, including life around the Oster farm, where planting trees was required to fight the Dust Bowl and where federal road projects put local men to work.

Barnes joined the Coast Guard during World War II when she was in her early 20s. She came to Portland in 1952, invited by a priest who asked her to do clerical work at a magazine published by the Jesuits. She later worked in banks' loan departments.

She draws a pension from the Southern Pacific Railroad, where her husband, who died 11 years ago, worked for more than 40 years.

To deal with today's economic problems, Barnes prescribes cooperation she remembers from her days on the farm. For example, she admires the idea of community gardens.

Perhaps because of her days of wind, dust and poverty, Barnes is still resourceful and generous. She supports her parish, the Archdiocese of Portland and other charitable groups with significant donations.

She also gives in smaller ways. She often bakes sweet rolls for the parish Bible study and is also sure to make extra rolls for any unexpected guests.

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Economic downturn brings call for help for unemployed

BENEFITS, from page 1

"Remember the low- and middle-income Americans whose lives and economic security are being shattered by the current economic crisis."

— Father Larry Snyder

securities firms, the motel industry, appliance factories, shipping companies and steel plants have all cut positions this year.

The staggering economy has delivered a strong blow to the country's poor faced with rising utility, energy, food and housing costs, said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA.

In a letter this fall to House and Senate leaders, he asked members of Congress to "remember the low- and

"unconscionable" that by the end of the year the unemployment benefits will run out for close to 2 million workers.

According to the U.S. Labor Department statistics released Nov. 7, the jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent in October when employers fired 240,000 workers. That figure put the total number of unemployed Americans past 10.08 million, the highest level in 25 years.

More than 22 percent of the nation's unemployed have been out of work for six months or longer — something that also has not happened in 25 years.

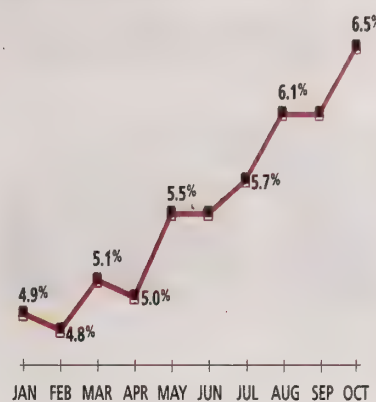
One year ago, the jobless rate was 4.8 percent. Many economists are saying the rate could climb to 8 percent or 8.5 percent by the end of 2009.

Job losses nationwide have occurred in a nearly every occupation. Construction companies, retailers, mortgage bankers,

Rising Unemployment

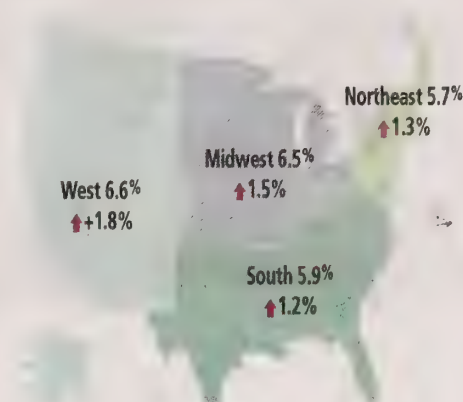
The U.S. unemployment rate has risen to more than 6 percent, the highest level since 2003.

2008 NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION, INCREASE FROM SEPTEMBER 2007



©2008 CNS

middle-income Americans whose lives and economic security are being shattered by the current economic crisis."

He specifically called on them to extend unemployment benefits and to increase food stamp benefits and social service assistance.

While without work

Unemployment benefits were created in 1935 in response to the Great Depression as a means to provide partial wage replacement to unemployed workers while they looked for a job.

Unemployed workers can get these benefits — administered by the states — for up to 26 weeks. On occasion, the federal government has extended the number of weeks these benefits are available. This June, Congress extended the program by 13 weeks.

Congressional Democrats are currently pushing for a further extension of unemployment benefits in a new stimulus package.

Shellabarger said he was looking forward to working with Congress on legislation to help the unemployed even if a larger stimulus package does not get passed.

But he also sees problems with the

way unemployment figures are measured and said the system "needs an overhaul," especially since it was designed when people primarily worked 40-hour weeks.

Now, some people work less but want to work more or work on a contractual basis and therefore do not qualify for unemployment benefits.

"How do we make sure people who are part of the workforce yet can't find work get the money they need to feed themselves and maintain shelter?" asked Shellabarger in a Nov. 13 interview with Catholic News Service.

Economists have likewise stressed the need to help low-income families in the complexities of this economic crisis.

Cushioning the blow

Steve Conroy, an associate professor of economics at the University of San Diego, said, "As Catholics, we must consider the human side of this economic crisis, particularly the impact of economic policies on workers and their families."

Tax cuts alone cannot help the country get back on track, said Conroy in an e-mail response to a query from CNS.

Instead, he recommended the government focus on infrastructure development projects, taking a page from President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which was a series of programs that had as a goal the creation of jobs for the unemployed in the 1930s.

Conroy said focusing on public investment projects would reduce unemployment levels and help to jumpstart the economy.

Suzanne Clain, associate professor of economics and statistics at the Villanova School of Business at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, similarly recommended job-creation programs that would grant public service jobs to displaced workers.

She said in an e-mail to CNS that these jobs were preferable to simply extending unemployment benefits.

Clain also emphasized that from the perspective of Catholic social thought the government should be "especially conscious of the economic impact of the crisis on the poor and vulnerable, and should take action — or see that action is taken by others — to cushion the blow."

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Books on Sts. Patrick and Francis confirm radical Christian lives

BY NANCY HARTNAGEL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Though they lived 750 actual years and cultural light-years apart, St. Patrick of Ireland and St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, shared a calling: They lived radical Christian lives because they believed God asked them to.

These two major Catholic saints are the subjects of new books.

"Ireland's Saint: The Essential Biography of St. Patrick" is a new edition of John Bagnell Bury's 1905 biography, "The Life of St. Patrick and His Place in History." Bury was a Protestant Irish historian and scholar of the Greek and Roman empires. His book was regarded as the final word on St. Patrick for the first half of the 20th century.

Editor Jon Sweeney has added throughout the text numerous sidebars that provide information, opinions and sometimes corrections from more recent historians. One note, for example, explains that the Dalriadans and Picts mentioned often by Bury are tribal peoples in the north of Ireland and central to northern Scotland, respectively.

One of the key changes Sweeney made was to the structure of Bury's work, moving his summary chapter on the saint's place in history from the back to the front of the book. Since the remaining chapters put flesh on the bones of Patrick's mission, this was helpful, signaling in brief what readers could expect to find in more detail.

In Bury's account, Patrick did three things in Ireland: "He organized the Christianity which already existed. He converted kingdoms which were still pagan, especially in the west. And he brought Ireland into connection with the church of the (Roman) Empire, making Ireland formally part of universal Christendom."

Sweeney's Patrick is very much Bury's Patrick, a humble, prayerful man who believes he has been called by God to missionary work in the still largely pagan island where he was enslaved as a youth and who toils faithfully for 30 years, circa 432-461, despite severe hardships, repeated dangers and not much support or guidance from Rome.

Bury made this assessment of Patrick: "The man who wrote the 'Confession' and the 'Letter Against Coroticus' had strength of will, energy of action, resolution without overconfidence, and the capacity for resisting pressure from others. ... Perhaps most important, he possessed practical qualities that were essential for carrying through the task that he had been divinely inspired to fulfill."

In "A Mended and Broken Heart: The Life and Love of Francis of Assisi," author Wendy Murray, formerly a senior writer for Christianity Today, asserts that a traditionally overlooked aspect of the story of the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, or Franciscans, is that his



relationship with St. Clare of Assisi, the founder of the female arm of the order, the Poor Clares, was rooted in love.

"This love, in turn, evolved into mutual renunciation as each pursued their individual life as penitent religious. This book asserts that their renounced physical love ultimately defined the inner landscape of their devotional lives," Murray writes in the preface.

Though Murray does not, and really cannot, prove this premise, she has crafted a very engaging history of the time as well as compact bios of Francis and Clare. They lived from the late 1100s into the 1200s, a time of danger both in Italy, with constant warring between communes and kingdoms, and internationally, with the Crusades dominating two centuries of Mediterranean politics.

There are other vivid sketches, of friars who collaborated with and succeeded Francis, and of the popes, the emperors and a sultan with whom he interacted. To supplement her text, Murray fills more than 40 pages with maps, a glossary, source material and explanatory notes.

But Francis is the star. Murray recounts familiar details — his playboy youth, renunciation of family, foundation of a new mendicant order and embrace of physical suffering, including the stigmata.

But she also describes the Francis who was brought to trial for stealing from his own father and whose yearlong imprisonment as a POW turned his Round-Table fascination with knighthood into a commitment to nonviolence, even as he participated in the Fifth Crusade.

Here is the Francis who preached naked in solidarity with Christ's humiliation on the cross and who battled his own Franciscan brothers over his more severe rule to govern their communal life.

That Francis and Clare may have considered marrying each other is an interesting idea. However, their shared story that can be documented shows a lifelong interdependence.

As Murray says, "To know Francis truly one must also know Clare."

Readers will find in these biographies no warm and fuzzy images of Patrick and Francis, but portraits of such unwavering Christian saints that their contemporaries "canonized" them even before they died.

Hartnagel is wire editor at Catholic News Service.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 30, 2008

Nov. 30, First Sunday of Advent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Advent is time to watch for the Lord

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I can clearly remember sitting on the front porch with my brother and watching down the street for my uncle's car.

We knew he was coming sometime that day and with him would be our cousins.

We were not a patient duo. We had many plans of forts to build in the basement and, if it was winter, snowball fights to be staged.

These plans burned in our minds and every minute that passed meant one less minute to play.

To keep the boredom at bay we would play tricks on each other. If I caught my brother not looking down the street I would excitedly say, "There they — aren't!"

He would do the same to me when I tired of gazing down the empty street.

Every now and then we would hear a car coming. We would crane our necks to see who it was but be deflated when we

realized it was not our uncle.

After the momentary disappointment faded we would go back to watching and waiting.

I think the Gospel writer had this kind of watchfulness in mind when he exhorted the faithful to stay on the lookout for the coming of the Lord.

He said, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

It is impossible to have this high level of watching and waiting every day of our lives. For this reason the church brings us the season of Advent.

It is, in effect, a time when the church sits on the front porch eagerly longing for the coming of the Lord.

Through signs and symbols we are put on alert.

In the Scriptures we wait with the Israelites as they continue their watch for a Messiah.

We also hold vigil with the early Christians as they anticipate (and we still await) the return of Jesus.

Advent is a time to switch gear and, like my brother and me waiting for my uncle's car, we must stay alert and watch, for Jesus is coming. We don't want to miss it!

Questions:

Share a story of a time you watched and waited for something or someone.

What did that feel like?

How can we stay alert and watch for the Lord amid the busyness of the holidays?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come" (Mark 13:33).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 23-29

Sunday (Christ the King), Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46; Monday (St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions), Revelation 14:1-5, Luke 21:1-4; Tuesday (St. Catherine of Alexandria), Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; Wednesday, Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; Thursday, Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9, Luke 21:20-28; Friday, Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; Saturday, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 30-DEC. 6

Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37; Monday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; Tuesday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; Wednesday (St. Francis Xavier), Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; Thursday (St. John of Damascus), Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; Friday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 29:17-23, Matthew 9:27-31; Saturday (St. Nicholas), Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8.



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Singing Irish priests ink major recording deal with U.S. company

NEW YORK (CNS) — Three priests, who also happen to be diocesan chorists from Northern Ireland, have been signed to a recording contract with a label of Sony BMG for 1 million euros (\$1.27 million).

They are the Priests and their debut album, "The Priests," went on sale Nov. 18. They sing sacred music, including "Panis Angelicus" and "Ave Maria."

Their album was recorded, in part, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, during a break from their pastoral duties. Each priest is associated with a parish in the diocese of Down and Connor.

Their arrangement with Sony BMG acknowledges the priority of their priestly duties. Their share of the proceeds will be used for their parishes and to support tired priests.

Father Eugene O'Hagan, his brother Father Martin O'Hagan and Father David Delargy began singing together in high school, where their schoolmates called them "Holy Holy Holy" because of their shared goal to enter the priesthood.

They continued singing together while they studied at the diocesan seminary, St. Malachy's College in Belfast, and took voice lessons from a renowned teacher Frank Capper.

When the trio attended the Irish college in Rome, they sang on many occasions, including a Mass celebrated by the late Pope John Paul II.

The priests, all in their 40s, said

they were inspired by Pope John Paul to spread the Gospel in new ways.

Father Eugene O'Hagan said, "This has been a privileged time for us in many unexpected ways," and that Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor "is delighted that he has three priests putting the diocese on the map."

He said Bishop Treanor's predecessor, Bishop Patrick Walsh, "was happy to endorse us. He knew we'd been singing since our seminary years."

While in New York, the Priests sang at a private Sony BMG reception held in their honor at Providence, a New York nightclub, which was the Manhattan Baptist Church from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The acoustics in the place are so good it was the home of Media Sound Studios in the 1970s and 1980s, hosting recording sessions for Jimi Hendrix, Billy Joel, John Lennon, the Rolling Stones, James Taylor and other legendary rock performers.

The Priests, wearing clerical garb and standing with their hands at their sides, sang five songs from a small unadorned platform. The cover art for their album, a Celtic cross on a white background, was projected on the windows on either side of the stage.

They were accompanied by pianist Danny O'Neill.

Their performance was introduced by Nick Raphael, managing director of Sony's Epic Records.

"This is not a religious project. It's a project of passion," he said. "These guys are passionate about what they do."

Richard Palmese, executive vice president for promotion for RCA Music Group, said that as an executive he is "excited about the great music and the vocal talents of our three artists."

"As a Catholic I'm proud to be able to support their ministry," he said. "It's a celebration of popular spiritual music and a celebration of the priesthood. The priests are bringing a message to millions through the ministry of song."

Palmese continued, "These are hit songs, spiritual classics we've grown up with, songs that we cherish. It's a very worthy product commercially and spiritually. We need evangelism in these times."

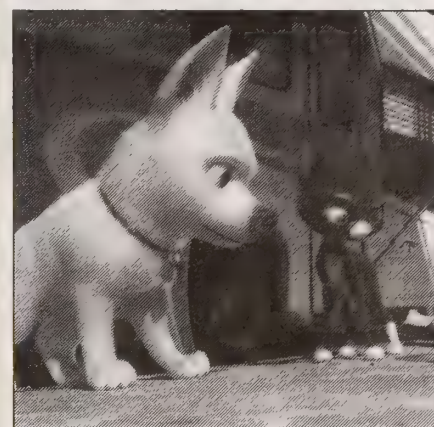
He acknowledged the Priests is not a typical group for RCA and joked that its members were the first artists in his more than 30 years in the business that he can promote without going to confession.

Father Delargy said the three priests were grateful for the encouragement of their confreres, whom he described as "a very strong fraternity of priests. They are delighted for us and very supportive."

The O'Hagan brothers added that their 93-year-old father was "over-the-moon" happy for them and convinced that their recently deceased mother "is having words with God" to assure their success.

Editor's Note: The Priests' Web site, www.thepriests.com, has samples of their music and an interactive blog.

'Bolt' strikes just right



CNS PHOTO BY DISNEY

In "Bolt" (Disney), the canine star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to the very real world of New York City.

The film is an endearing animated adventure, which sees its hero learning to believe in himself and his companions — especially a formerly selfish feline — discovering the value of friendship and teamwork, has chase sequences and cartoon action that might frighten the youngest children, but is otherwise unobjectionable.

Conventional and 3-D formats. The USFCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-1 — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Blanketeers of Holy Spirit Church in Denver are pictured Nov. 8 with blankets they created for Project Linus, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that provides handmade security blankets to children who are seriously ill or traumatized. Since 2000, the Blanketeers have made more than 4,300 blankets for the Charlotte and North Mecklenburg chapters of Project Linus, as well as for Gaston Memorial Hospital, East Lincoln Pregnancy Center and parishioners as needs arise.

To join the Blanketeers or to donate fabric and yarn, contact Margaret Carpenter, coordinator, through the church office at (704) 483-6448.

Celebrating Scripture and St. Paul



COURTESY PHOTO

Oratorian Father David Valtierra of The Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., speaks during a Scripture workshop at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone Nov. 15. The workshop, for faith formation leaders, "Why Catholic?" facilitators and catechists from churches in the Boone and Hickory vicariates, was to encourage celebration of the Pauline year — the yearlong celebration convoked by Pope Benedict XVI to mark the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth.

Honoring veterans



COURTESY PHOTO

Veterans stand to be recognized during a Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Father Fidel Melo, pastor, gave the homily incorporating themes of freedom, gratitude for those who have served in the U.S. military, and encouragement of prayers for those who continue to serve. The student body of Our Lady of Grace School attended the special Mass, which was coordinated by students' parents who served as lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. Knights of Columbus honor guard, parish Boy Scouts, student council representatives and the school choir also participated in the Mass. A reception was held afterward.

Veterans attending the Mass included Lee Doyle, Jim Elder, Anthony Klier, John Polickoski, Bill Williams, Don Brady, Barry Yow, Chuck Kelly, Tom Heslin, Prospero Angiolino, Pat Kirwan, Larry D'Amelio, Tom Thompson, Adam Lichota, John Marsicano, Bob Grabasky, George Bean, Daniel Roath, Richard Valitutto, Bob Lysiak and Arn Vogt.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR - Raleigh

St. Raphael Catholic Church, a large Jesuit parish in the Diocese of Raleigh, is seeking to fill a Parish Administrator position. This position is a full-time, professional, ministerial position whose responsibilities include but are not limited to directing the administration of the parish, overseeing the Faith Formation program, and coordinating various aspects of the pastoral and social ministries of the parish. The Parish Administrator reports directly to the pastor, is a member of the Administrative Committee and will work in conjunction with the Director of Hispanic Ministry, the Principal of St. Raphael Catholic School, and the Director of the Early Childhood Center.

The applicant should be a practicing Roman Catholic and have the equivalent of a master's degree. The position requires strong financial and personnel management skills with a minimum of five years of administrative experience along with experience directing pastoral ministries. Ideally the Parish Administrator would be bilingual (English and Spanish).

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YOUTHS IN ACTION

'A God-inspired party'*High school youths gather for fall retreat*BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

DENVER — "The day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night," said St. Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians (5:2).

That was the theme for "Grand Theft Nocturnal," the diocesan high school fall retreat, held at Holy Spirit Church in Denver Nov. 14-16.

About 45 high school youths from eight parishes gathered for a weekend of prayer, reflection, presentations and small group sharing.

"I thought that the theme was great for a high school retreat because it talked about topics that high school students deal with on a daily basis," said Megan Meyer, a 10th-grader and parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"We learned about how drug addictions, cheating, lying and other sins

can keep us from being ready for when Jesus comes like a thief in the night," she said.

Fellow 10th-grader and St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Elizabeth Angermeyer agreed that the theme was particularly fitting for youths in this day and age.

"As a young teenager, I know what it is like to feel the pressure to try things," said Elizabeth. "When I am confronted by peer pressure, I remember Thessalonians and remember that God will come."

The retreat took a Scripture-based approach to the topics of sin and grace, vigilance and virtue, and conscience and conversion — all with a continual focus on the importance of staying alert for the coming of the Lord.

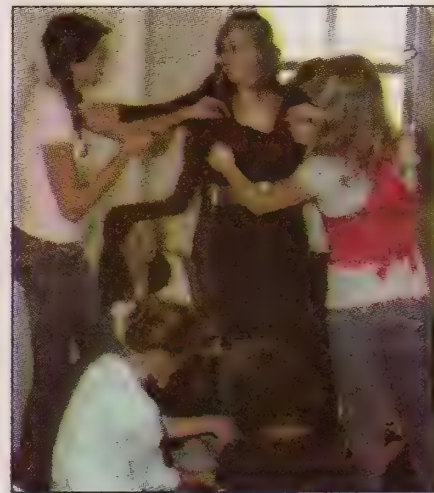
"Being ready for God is an important thing to integrate into your everyday life," said Kara Michaels, a homeschooled 10th-grader and parishioner of St. James the Greater Church in Concord. "Just continuously working on being like Jesus, being the best that you can be and giving the glory to God is important."

Beyond the spiritual benefit was a communal bond that was formed by the youths sharing in faith-based activities.

"Going on a retreat is like going to a party — a God-inspired party," said Kara. "Not only do you get to grow closer to God and work on your spiritual life, but you also make a lot of great friends."

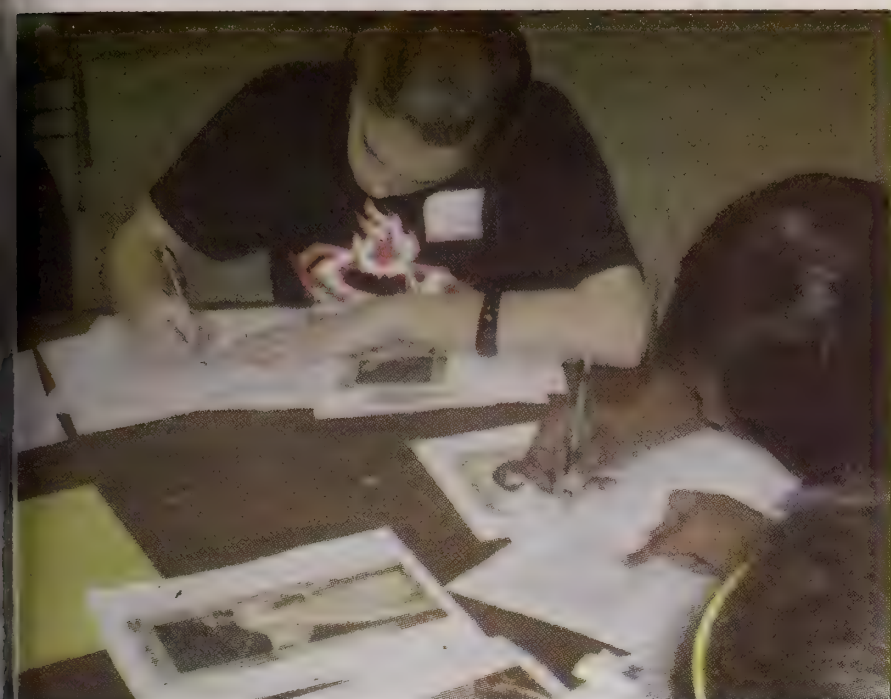
The youths also spent time in eucharistic adoration, prayed the rosary, received reconciliation and attended the 11 a.m. Mass at the church on Sunday.

"I think the retreat was a tremendous success," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry. "I think everyone who participated grew in knowledge, love and a desire to serve the Lord and his church."

**Portraying
pure fashion**

COURTESY PHOTO BY HEATHER BONNER

Girls take part in a "Project Runway" session during a Pure Fashion Retreat at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Oct. 18. Pure Fashion is a faith-based program that encourages teen girls to live, act and dress in accordance with their dignity as children of God. During "Project Runway," participants constructed outfits using bolts of fabric, scissors, duct tape and safety pins. Other sessions included talks on temperament, moral dilemmas, inner beauty and dating and relationships.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kara Michaels of St. James the Greater Church in Concord journals on virtues and vices in her life during the "Grand Theft Nocturnal" diocesan youth retreat at Holy Spirit Church in Denver Nov. 14-16.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Will we become a secular society?

Bishops care about deterioration of moral values in society

There was a time when the church was convinced that error had no rights. The early bishops in their quest for doctrinal purity were once dismissive of the rights of individuals.

This led to countless abuses: instruments of torture, witch trials, character assassinations and even cruel executions.

The church has long since denounced these abuses. Pope John Paul II even repented publicly for them. Nevertheless, the authority of the bishops has been marginalized ever since.

The recent election is a case in point. The majority of Catholics voted for Barack Obama, the pro-choice candidate, thus exercising their conscience.

When philosopher John Locke proclaimed the primacy of the individual over and above the common good, he sparked an intellectual revolution.

Based on Locke's insights, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, and the spirit of American rugged individualism was codified into our being.

Flash forward to 2008. Obama's great victory triggered off a worldwide frenzy. Even though I voted against him, part of me was happy for him and for all those who celebrated his success.

Looking back to the 1960s as a young priest, I remember taking a busload of people to Washington to witness Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. make his "I Have a Dream" speech. I also remember going to Selma, Ala., a few years later to help those who were protesting the voter-abuse scandal.

My sister married a black man, a native Bahamian, and I have black nephews and nieces. I can easily identify with the euphoria felt so strongly by President-elect Obama's followers. I understand their justified pride.

Why then could I not vote for him?

I could not vote for him because he was the most liberal senator in Washington, and he took millions of dollars from the radical side of the Democratic Party, knowing that they would demand payback. They want their secular agenda pushed forward.

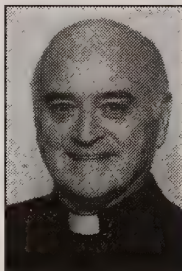
The word "secular" means "not bound by any religious scruples."

A friend of mine from New Zealand sent me this e-mail a couple of weeks ago:

"Your situation in the U.S. is very similar to what we face in New Zealand. The Labour Party here has been in office for three terms of three years each, and they have passed legislation that has almost done away with any

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



morality in our country.

"They have legalized prostitution, gay marriages, abortions with no parental notification from 11 years old upwards, lowered the drinking age to 18, tried to introduce euthanasia and weakened the status of marriage.

"Both major parties have made promises of tax cuts and reduced government spending that haven't had any chance of being realized."

In light of all this, I humbly ask you to be watchful. Try to forgive the bishops if you feel any resentment toward them; they are only doing their duty. Jesus Christ has commanded them to be good shepherds.

They care about the deterioration of moral values in our society.

Among other things, the bishops do not want state-assisted suicide to become lawful. Elderly people are already feeling guilty for not dying sooner when they hear their offspring whispering to one another, "This is so awful, Mother (or Father) is using up our inheritance."

Where will it end?

We should all pray for President-elect Obama. I also pray that he will govern from the center, not from the extreme left.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Letters to the Editor

Gratitude for bishops' pro-life stance

Thank God for Bishop Peter J. Jugis and his fellow bishops ("As pastors and bishops: Bishops cite abortion deregulation fears in postelection statement," Nov. 14). Thank God for these brave men of the church.

Recent news reports have indicated that if the Freedom of Choice Act passes, it will require Catholic hospitals and Catholic doctors to perform abortions. As such, the church will close down these hospitals rather than be party to the abomination that is infanticide.

Catholic hospitals represent approximately 1 in 8 U.S. hospitals. Shutting them down would immediately and dramatically degrade healthcare services across the nation.

I hope all Christians and any Americans — who see the slaughter of unborn children as the moral horror it is — will stand with our bishops as they defend the lives of the most innocent and vulnerable among us, as well as religious liberty and 2,000 years of Christian moral teaching.

Bishop Jugis, we're with you!

— Jeff Veyera
Matthews

Postelection aspirations should focus on right to life

Much talk of hope, peace, unity continues in these post-election days ("Making amends: Reconciliation after election possible, but expected to take time," Nov. 14).

We look for change across America — a flowering of respect and dignity for all people, a just sharing of goods, careful stewardship of the environment.

These are great aspirations.

But how do we hope for wisdom to seek peace around the world when we do such violence to unborn babies?

How do we hope for generosity to meet the needs of the poor when we exercise the ultimate selfishness in denying babies the chance to be born?

How do we hope to be good stewards of God's creation when we destroy his greatest creation — the lives of babies?

How do we hope for any good for our beloved country when we offer mothers in crisis the most hopeless act of all — the violent death of their precious sons and daughters within?

Pope John Paul II declared, "A

nation that kills its own children is nation without hope."

And yet if we turn to God and repent we can hope that the Precious Blood of Jesus will be a font of mercy to wash away the blood of the millions of unborn babies killed in our country.

Let us dedicate ourselves in prayer and action to seeking the right of every child of God to be born.

Then we can hope and work for true revival in America.

— Helen Gordic
Leicester

The better way to help the 'common good'

I read with dismay that some Catholic leaders believe President-elect Barack Obama's economic policies "best reflected" Catholic values "hope, personal responsibility and care for the common good" ("Toward the coming challenges: Catholic leaders congratulate Obama, offer prayers for administration," Nov. 7).

Although most Catholics understand Obama's abortion advocacy attacks the inalienable right to life, many others fail to realize that his position on the "common good" likewise infringes on our God-given right to liberty and ultimately will hurt the poor rather than help them.

"Common good" has many definitions among politicians. For many including Obama, it means a false economic equality achieved by forcibly taking property from some and giving to others.

It is synonymous with communism — a godless totalitarian system of government under which the masses live without their God-given right to liberty.

I believe "common good" is best promoted by free enterprise rooted in Judeo-Christian ethics of moral absolutes and the God-given rights the ethics provide.

Our nation, which was founded on these principles, is the most generous in the world — a clear understanding of the "Good Samaritan" parable in which an ethical free enterprise system allows those who prosper to willingly give to those who do not prosper.

A faceless bureaucracy can never replace our responsibility to give of our time, talent and treasure.

We should challenge those around us to live this Gospel message rather than relinquishing this responsibility to the government — which will lead only to the loss of liberty and hurt, rather than help the "common good."

— Mary Potter Sumner
Charlotte

Social tolerance is the new politically correct

Churches can, should speak out and proclaim the truth

The victors of the 2008 election have yet to take office, the losers yet to be defeated (if only from second-tier cable TV interview shows). Now prepare for 2012 and the new buzz word.

It is "social tolerance."

Social tolerance is what 52 percent of California voters, 57 percent of Arizona voters and 62 percent of Florida voters voted to show when approving a ban on same-sex marriage in their states.

"Social tolerance" is a term I first saw in an editorial in the Seattle Times commenting on the tolerance proven in the election of an African-American as president while bemoaning the lack of "social tolerance" on the marriage issues.

But the editorial took some comfort in noting that "other measures of social tolerance failed."

The socially intolerant measures defeated were defeats of a Colorado measure defining "person" from the moment of conception and a measure in South Dakota rejecting a ban on abortion except for victims of rape or incest.

Washington state voters passed by 59 percent a measure to authorize physician-assisted suicide, joining Oregon as one of two states in the nation with such a statute and perhaps leading to a bi-state tourist slogan "People Are Dying to Come to the Pacific Northwest."

Terminally ill patients who wish to end their lives will no longer be outside

the law, the Times noted, which is "a gain for tolerance."

The big surprise in the election, however, was that many people who supported Barack Obama also voted in favor of a same-sex marriage ban in California, Arizona and Florida, said Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco.

"They did not see this as a conservative/liberal issue," Archbishop Niederauer said. "They saw it as a natural law issue."

California's Proposition 8 would overturn a state Supreme Court ruling that granted same-sex couples a constitutional right to marry.

Supporters, in addition to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, included California's Catholic bishops, some evangelical churches and others.

Social tolerance evidently is not extended to churches and their members.

More than 40 people demonstrated in front of a Latter-day Saint church in Seattle. They lined the sidewalk, chanting slogans such as "Tax the church!" and holding signs saying "Shame on the church" and "All marriages are equal."

Meanwhile, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City noted the affinity between the Latter-day Saint and Catholic faiths on the sacredness of traditional marriage and the importance of family.

"While acknowledging that this

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



position is not universally held in our society today, our churches are committed to proclaiming the truth, and we cherish our ability to participate in the democratic process," he said.

In addition to being socially intolerant in their protests, opponents are wrong on the facts.

This has nothing to do with the tax-exempt status of churches. While they are prohibited from engaging in partisan political process by supporting candidates, they are free to speak out on issues.

All that churches in California, Arizona and Florida did was to bring their belief to the public square. It was not a situation of churches lobbying legislative bodies or pressuring politicians but successfully making a case that appealed to more than 50 percent of the electorate.

This is little different than a state construction industry association campaigning for a ballot issue to increase highway spending.

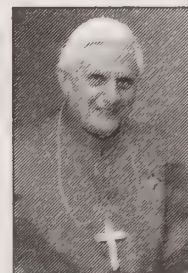
Pleas for social tolerance would be more convincing if not coming from people acting badly.

Social tolerance may be a proper term for excusing one who uses the wrong fork at dinner, but not for excusing affronts to human life and dignity.

Faith, charity go hand in hand, pope says at weekly audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being saved by faith in Christ alone and not by works does not mean that people can do whatever they want as long as they recognize Christ as their savior, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Faith in Christ "necessarily means conforming oneself to Christ" and being like him, especially in loving and helping others, the pope said Nov. 19 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

With an estimated 15,000 people gathered in the square, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the apostle's teaching about how people become justified or made righteous in the eyes of God.

A dispute over what St. Paul meant when he wrote that people are justified by "faith alone" was at the center of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation, the pope said, but while people are justified by faith alone, true faith always translates into love for God and for one's neighbor.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider his teaching on our justification.

Paul's experience of the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus led him to see that it is only by faith in Christ, and not by any merit of our own, that we are made righteous before God.

Our justification in Christ is thus God's gracious gift, revealed in the mystery of the cross. Christ died in order to become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption (cf. 1 Cor 1:30), and we in turn, justified by faith, have become in him the very righteousness of God (cf. 2 Cor 5:21).

In the light of the cross and its gifts of reconciliation and new life in the Spirit, Paul rejected a righteousness based on the law and its works. For the Apostle, the Mosaic Law, as an irrevocable gift of God to Israel, is not abrogated but relativized, since it is only by faith in God's promises to Abraham, now fulfilled in Christ, that we receive the grace of justification and new life.

The law finds its end in Christ (cf. Rom 10:4) and its fulfillment in the new commandment of love.

With Paul, then, let us make the cross of Christ our only boast (cf. Gal 6:14), and give thanks for the grace which has made us members of Christ's body, which is the church.

Honoring the true king

Feast of Christ the King a time to turn preaching into doing

On Sunday, Nov. 30, the First Sunday of Advent, we will have closed the Cycle A Scripture readings and begin Cycle B readings, and we set aside the year of St. Matthew and begin the year of St. Mark and St. Paul.

This Sunday, Nov. 23, we celebrated the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in the liturgical calendar. And it seems that the new liturgical year will be full of pleasant surprises, if we really listen to our king, Jesus Christ.

When we read the Gospel, there is always a story beyond the story — and what we read between the lines may be more important than the printed words.

Let me begin by saying that we as Americans would have a tough time accepting any king. After all, we have never had one and probably we never will. We elect a new president every four years, but a main difference is that a president presides while a king reigns.

However, Catholics across the world proclaim Jesus as king, one whose dominion is based on love, truth and compassion.

At least two other Christian

denominations — Lutherans and United Methodists — observe also the last Sunday of the liturgical year under the title of Christ the King. However, this feast is Roman Catholic in origin. The tradition goes back to the 19th century when, amid conflicts and in preparation for the new century, Pope Leo XIII issued the encyclical "Annum Sacrum" on May 25, 1899 in which he dedicated the world to Christ the King, the real king.

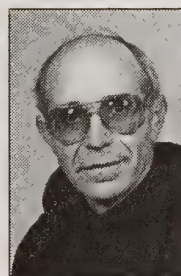
Twenty six years later, after the great war had devastated Europe, Pope Pius XI offered another reminder of Christ's kingship — in his Dec. 11, 1925 encyclical "Quas Primas," the pope established the feast of Christ the King to be celebrated on the last Saturday of October.

When the Roman Catholic Church revised the liturgical calendar in 1969, the feast was permanently moved to the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

The concept of God as king also is widespread in the Hebrew Scriptures. And a powerful image of Jesus as shepherd-king is marvelously described in Psalm 23. And in the New Testament,

Guest Column

CAPUCHIN
FRANCISCAN FATHER
JOHN C. AURILIA
GUEST COLUMNIST



St. Paul, while in Ephesus around 54-57 A.D., reminds the Corinthians that Christ the King is the new Adam leading them to life, while the first Adam brought death (1 Cor. 15).

Eventually the Gospel makes further development of this topic by focusing on the "preaching ministry" and "doing ministry." It is clear today that talking is less effective than doing and being.

In our Christian lives, being active and contemplative is not an "either or" approach, but a way of life; not a hobby, but an ambition for the privilege to serve, as Christ the King did. By serving others and growing with others, we become like Christ, who humbly washed the feet of his disciples.

So as we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, ask yourself: What is your hobby? What's your ambition?

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS WATTIE, REUTERS

Former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., applauds during the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver in early August.

Daschle chosen to head Health and Human Services

Former senator and Catholic criticized for his abortion support

WASHINGTON(CNS)—President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Tom Daschle, former Democratic senator from South Dakota, to be the next Health and Human Services secretary.

The New York Times reported Obama's choice of Daschle Nov. 19, attributing it to people the paper described as "being close to the transition team."

Daschle, a Catholic, represented South Dakota in the Senate from 1986 to 2004. Before that he was a member of the House of Representatives for eight years.

In the Senate he was minority leader, 1994-2001. In January 2001 he was Senate majority leader for a brief stint, then in May 2001 was again named Senate majority leader, a post he held until January 2003.

Although he has reportedly accepted Obama's nomination, a formal announcement is not expected until other Cabinet members are chosen.

He currently serves as a public policy adviser in a Washington law firm and has been appointed head of Obama's health care policy group. His interest in health care is spelled out in a book he wrote, "Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis," which was published in February.

The book proposes creating a federal health board similar to the Federal Reserve Board. It also recommends expanding Medicaid; expanding Medicare to make it available to all Americans for purchase through a federal insurance pool; and making private health insurance more broadly available through a system of subsidies.

In 2001-03, when Daschle was the Senate majority leader, he was criticized by South Dakota's bishops for his support of abortion legislation, including a bill which at that time would have permitted some partial-birth abortions.

(The federal ban on partial-birth abortion was signed into law in 2003 and upheld by the Supreme Court in 2007.)

In 2002, a year when Daschle was not up for re-election, Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., wrote a letter read at all parishes prior to the November election that criticized the senator.

The bishop said Daschle had been encouraging contributions to the National

"The senator has regrettably crossed the line and I cannot let it go unanswered."

— Bishop Blase J. Cupich

Abortion and Reproductive Right Action League, now called NARAL Pro-Choice America, to support the "election of candidates with pro abortion positions."

"It is clear that the senator has not only aligned himself with NARAL, but he has also made abortion the issue of this year's campaign," the bishop wrote. "The senator regrettably has crossed the line and I cannot let it go unanswered."

The next year, Bishop Robert J. Carlson, then head of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, S.D., encouraged Daschle to reconsider his support for legal abortion but said he "would never break off dialogue or a pastoral relationship" with him.

Bishop Carlson is now head of the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich.

The bishop was responding to a April 2003 article in the Weekly Standard political magazine claiming that he sent Daschle a letter telling him to remove references to being Catholic in his congressional biography and campaign materials because of his public position on abortion.

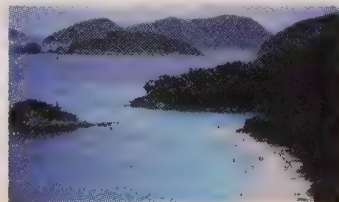
Both the bishop and the senator gave only brief statements on the article published in April 2003. In the bishop's statement, he said he had talked to Daschle about his position on abortion and encouraged the lawmaker to reconsider his stand on it as well as his support for NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Daschle responded by saying: "I have been a Catholic all my life and will remain one. Every American's religious convictions are deeply personal and I am not going to participate in a debate that is intended to politicize anyone's religious beliefs."

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BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — George and Edith Hilbert wanted to leave a legacy to their values during their lifetime. They loved the Catholic Church, particularly their own diocese, parish and local school, and wanted to make sure that each would benefit from their inheritance after their deaths.

Now, that legacy has been realized through three endowments.

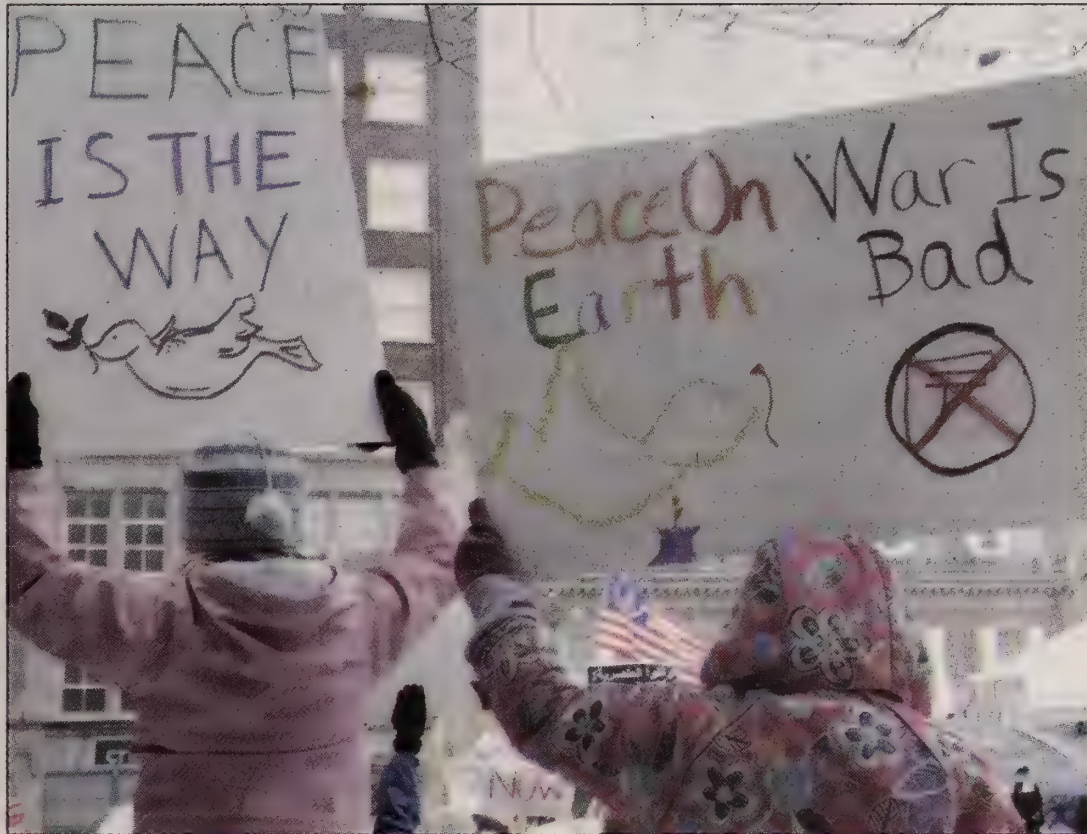
"They lived a very sociable lifestyle — but not a high-end lifestyle," said Patricia Drahos, the Hilberts' niece.

According to Drahos, the Hilberts started investing \$40 a month in stock in the 1960s and overtime their investments grew.

"They were just normal

See LEGACY, page 6

Making peace a priority



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Children take part in a protest marking the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq in late March at the Liberty Pole in Rochester, N.Y. Activities on behalf of peace have become more commonplace among Catholics in the 25 years since the U.S. bishops adopted their pastoral letter on peace.

At 25, pastoral
letter on peace set
goals that remain
unfulfilled

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — May 3 marked the 25th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on peace, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

In contrast to the highly public process that led to its adoption, the document's silver anniversary passed with hardly any notice.

But that doesn't mean the bishops' core messages — challenging the world's nuclear powers to rid their arsenals of nuclear weapons and discussing the importance of peacemaking in everyone's life — have been

See PEACE, page 9

The bishops and Obama

Bishops note Obama's
historic win but worry
about his abortion policy

BISHOP JUGIS TO PRAY
54-DAY ROSARY NOVENA

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Several U.S. bishops have noted the historic nature of President-elect Barack Obama's election as the first African-American to win the White House, with one describing it as "a moving

See OBAMA, page 12

Analyzing the Acts

Program explores Bible, God's presence in history

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MORGANTON — How do Catholics look at the Bible? How do we understand its language?

Augustinian Father John Denny presented "The Acts of the Apostles: The Church's Journey from Jerusalem to Rome" at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Nov. 20.

About 50 youth ministers,

faith formation personnel, campus ministers and catechists from around the Diocese of Charlotte attended the program, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation.

Father Denny is pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley. With a master's degree in ecclesial history from Washington

See BIBLE, page 7

Giving thanks

Churches, schools help needy
for Thanksgiving holiday

| PAGE 5

Culture Watch

Mother Teresa's lessons in book;
Catholic makes TV movie

| PAGES 10-11

To help the hungry

Study: More overseas aid
needed to help poor

| PAGE 16

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BETTERING BURUNDI



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF OPUS PRIZE FOUNDATION

Seattle University and the Opus Prize Foundation Nov. 18 awarded the \$1 million Opus Prize to Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse for her work providing safe havens to 30,000 child victims of ethnic strife in the African country of Burundi. She is pictured teaching at Maison Shalom in Ruyigi, Burundi.

Opus Prize awarded to woman who helps child victims of war in Burundi

SEATTLE (CNS) — A Catholic woman who has provided a safe haven for child victims of ethnic strife in Burundi has received the \$1 million Opus Prize, billed as the world's largest humanitarian award for social innovation.

Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse received the honor Nov. 18 from Jesuit-run Seattle University and the Opus Prize Foundation.

Barankitse founded Maison Shalom in 1993 as a home for 25 children orphaned after a violent attack by ethnic Tutsis. It was the first year of a civil war between the Hutus and the Tutsis that would last 12 years.

Burundi continues to recover from the war, which claimed more than 300,000 lives. A half-million people were displaced internally and at least another half-million were driven from the country, according to estimates.

Barankitse's organization has grown into a multiservice agency that runs 500 small houses where children are nurtured and supported so they can be reintegrated into loving families. Maison Shalom also recently opened a hospital.

Seattle University and the foundation also announced two winners of \$100,000 prizes: Michael Woodard, founder of Jubilee House Community and Center for the Development of Central America, and Krishnammal Jagannathan, founder of Land for Tillers' Freedom.

Woodward has spent 15 years helping people in Nicaragua become self-sufficient and escape poverty. Jagannathan has spent 40 years fighting for land rights and the self-empowerment of women in Tamil Nadu, India.

"Seattle University is clear about its mission: empowering leaders for a just and humane world," Jesuit Father Stephen Sundborg, university president, said in a statement.

"Bringing these unsung heroes to our campus is a great opportunity to honor their work and provide our students an incredible educational experience by meeting inspiring individuals," he said.

The Opus Prize is a faith-based humanitarian grant awarded annually to an individual or organization of any religious background, anywhere in the world. Recipients must demonstrate a pioneering approach to solving the root cause of social problems in their community.

The prize is awarded by the Opus Prize Foundation through a partnership with a university or college "as a way to inspire lives of service," according to a news release.

Barankitse's work has allowed former child soldiers, street children and those made orphans by the war to learn to live together and to learn a skill so they can earn a living.

Shanghai Catholics report seeing smoke from prominent Marian statue

SHANGHAI, China (CNS) — Some Catholics in the Shanghai Diocese said they have witnessed smoke emerging from a bronze statue of Mary holding the Infant Jesus — Our Lady of Sheshan — atop the Minor Basilica of St. Mary.

The incidents took place during the afternoons Oct. 1-5, and each episode lasted one to three hours, local Catholics told the Asian church news agency UCA News. They offered no explanations for what they saw around the 3.8-meter (12.5 feet) statue.

Based on a one-minute video clip provided to UCA News by a layperson, something resembling black smoke appears to emerge from the back of the statue.

This is visible even though the video was shot from the ground up toward the statue atop a 38-meter bell tower.

Fang Linger, a guide for visitors at the basilica, said she saw the smoke Oct.

2 after visitors questioned her about it.

"I told them I didn't know what had happened, but was certain it could not be a fire, because there is only the statue right on top of the basilica," she said.

"There could be reasons and explanations, but it definitely is not human-made," she added.

Some local Catholics believe the phenomenon was a Marian apparition and have prayed at the basilica more often since then.

Others said some seminarians, priests and government officials climbed up to see the statue after reports circulated. They quoted officials as saying the smoke was actually "swarms of insects or bees."

A priest who saw the smoke for days said he believes it was a miracle said the diocese has not conducted any scientific investigation or follow-up, while religious officials said the case was not a miracle and no investigation is needed.

Diocesan Planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Pray the *rosary* at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — "A Faith Response to Uncertain Economic Times" will be held in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. The St. Gabriel parish community would like to hear your concerns about our country's current economic situation and its affects on our community. All are invited, especially those who have recently lost jobs or are worried about job security. Come and see how the church can be of support. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 6212 Tuckaseegee Rd., will celebrate a *Mass in English* beginning Saturday, Dec. 6, at 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is a predominantly Spanish-speaking parish that wishes to reach out to the English speaking Catholics in the western part of Mecklenburg County. For more information, call the church office at (704) 391-3732.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will host "The Birth of Jesus 101 — Faith vs. Fact," an Advent reflection Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Deacon Jeff Evers will lead the reflection with a retelling of the Christmas story. Lunch will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a canned good to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei Recollection for Men* will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei Recollection for Women* will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The recollection will be directed by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. There will be opportunities for confession and Mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m. For more information, contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate a *SPRED (Special Religious Development) Advent Mass* on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 12:30 p.m. The purpose of this Mass is to acknowledge the importance of those with physical and developmental disabilities as members of the Body of Christ. The parish SPRED Program furthers the spiritual development and inclusion of persons of all ages with developmental disabilities through small faith groups. All persons with disabilities and their caregivers are invited to attend the Mass and the reception that follows in the St. Matthew Church Banquet Room. For more information, contact Jan Clemens, parish SPRED coordinator, at (704) 246-7102.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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NOVEMBER 28, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 5

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican calls for greater vigilance over world's financial operations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the current market crisis calls for a new international agreement to effectively monitor global financial operations and give poorer countries a greater voice in economic policies.

In particular, steps are needed to curb the abuses of offshore financial institutions, which many see as one of the causes of the financial meltdown, said a statement drafted by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The statement came in preparation for the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Financing for Development, which was to take place Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in Doha, Qatar. The conference, to be attended by representatives of developed and developing countries, was expected to propose steps to respond to the current crisis.

The Vatican statement said it was

important that solutions do not favor rich countries at the continuing expense of poorer countries.

"There is a need to avoid triggering a chain of mutual protectionism. Instead, cooperation should be strengthened regarding transparency and vigilance over the financial system," it said.

"It is important that the political examination among the richest nations, although necessary, does not lead to solutions based on exclusive agreements," it said.

Under the present economic system, it said, "poor countries" are financing "rich countries" through the movement of private capital and government reserves, which are invested in established markets or offshore institutions.

When designing a response, it said, world leaders should follow the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, which are key elements of the church's social teaching.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — "Learning in the School of the Church Fathers Today," a presentation by Abbot Placid Solari will be presented by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., Dec. 4 at 7:45 p.m. A social hour with wine and cheese will follow the presentation in Holy Grounds Coffee Shop. This event is free and open to the public. To register, call (704) 461-5097 or e-mail robertpreston@bac.edu. For more information, visit www.bradleyinstitute.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will host a Christmas tea gathering at the O'Henry Hotel, 622 Green Valley Rd., Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. For information or reservations, contact Marilyn Conte at (336) 545-2990.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be presented Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. The program will include musical pieces performed by the Chancel Adult Choir, the Children's Choir and guest soloists. The music will be enhanced by scriptural readings highlighting Advent and Christmas. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Rosemary Hyman at (704) 664-3992, ext 315.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

188 Japanese martyrs beatified at Mass in Nagasaki

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian martyrdom is the fullest expression of human freedom and reflects the supreme act of love, said a top Vatican official at a Mass beatifying 188 Japanese martyrs.

"It is not the punishment or the torture that creates a martyr," but rather the fact the person suffered and died for Christ, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said during the beatification Mass in Nagasaki, Japan, Nov. 24.

The 188 17th-century Japanese martyrs were tortured and killed in different cities between 1606 and 1639 after the Japanese government outlawed Christianity.

More than 30,000 people attended the ceremony in the city's baseball stadium to celebrate the beatification of Jesuit Father Peter Kibe Kasui and 187 companions.

After his Nov. 23 Angelus address to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI said the martyrs' beatification marked a significant event for the Catholic Church and all of Japan.

The pope asked people to "rejoice" and pray the beatified martyrs' "victory in Christ over sin and death fill us all with hope and courage."

During the Mass, which was concelebrated by 10 cardinals and

bishops, Cardinal Saraiva said martyrs of every age, place and time have all displayed the same dedicated faith in Jesus Christ.

Christian martyrdom "is the fullest exercise of human liberty and the supreme act of love," he said.

Dying for one's faith in Christ is "an act of love toward God and humanity, including the persecutors," the cardinal said.

The newly beatified, all but five of whom are lay adults and children, had been decapitated, crucified, burned at the stake or scalded to death in boiling water. The beatified group included entire families who refused to renounce their beliefs.

By beatifying these men and women the church is underlining the importance of persevering in the belief that only God can save humankind, said Archbishop Joseph Takami of Nagasaki.

The Japanese martyrs also highlight the value of religious freedom and the necessity of facing persecution with nonviolence if there is to be peace, he said.

Cardinal Saraiva said because only five of the 188 newly beatified are missionary priests, the church is sending a strong message to today's young people and laity to strive to live a life of holiness.

Lighting the plight



CNS PHOTO BY HILARY DUFFY, COURTESY COVENANT HOUSE

People take part in Covenant House's annual candlelight vigil in New York's Times Square Nov. 20. The event focused attention on the plight of homeless youths. Covenant House is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas providing services to homeless youths. Since 1977, more than 1,000 faith community volunteers have helped the organization. Most of the Covenant House volunteers are Christian, and half of the Christians are Catholic, according to Katrina Amann, formation program coordinator.

TO OUR READERS

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend, some copies of this week's The Catholic News & Herald may arrive in mail boxes later than usual. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the delays, and we wish all of our readers a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 2 (1 p.m.)
Blessing of Catholic sections of cemetery
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Dec. 4 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 6 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for aspirants of diocesan diaconate
formation program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 7 (5 p.m.)
Installation of Father Paul Gary as pastor
St. Luke Church, Mint Hill

Respecting life in words



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Mulligan, a member of the parish Respect Life Committee at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, awards three eighth-grade students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School for their winning essays in a respect life contest sponsored by the committee. The awards were presented after a school Mass Nov. 5.

Winners are (from left) Burgoyne Hughes, first place; Scott Fatyol, third place; and Joseph Angel, second place.

With the guidance of language arts teacher Sterling Smith, the students' essays featured the issues of capital punishment and abortion. In addition to recognition, the winning students each won a small monetary award for their creative efforts.

Winning essays



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Linda Kenzik (back row) of Immaculata School in Hendersonville and members of Knights of Columbus Council 7184 stand with winners of the annual essay contest for sixth- through eighth-grade students. Sponsored by the council since 2002, the contest challenges students to write 500 words on a theme chosen by the council and school staff; this year's theme was "How Does the Right to Vote Impact America's Values?"

The essays were judged by a three-member panel from the council and the first-, second- and third-place winners — who received commemorative medals and cash prizes — were announced at a school assembly. Winners were sixth-graders Reid Motter, Jillian Messina and Taylor Singleton; seventh-graders Hannah Krowka, Kayla Bray and Ali Cole; and eighth-graders Monique Laborde, Christian Bobek and Erin Brooks.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization.

Praying for life

Night of prayer for life to be held in parishes around diocese

CHARLOTTE — The National Night of Prayer for Life will be held in a dozen churches in the Diocese of Charlotte Dec. 8-9.

The event is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and Benediction.

"On this evening, we assemble to ask God's help and forgiveness for sins against our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — the unborn," said Maggi Nadol, director of the Catholic Social Services' Respect Life ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Parishes typically begin the service at 9 p.m. on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, and continue until 1 a.m. on Dec. 9, when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico.

An "hour of unity" is designated for each time zone, so all parishes in the four U.S. time zones can be linked in prayer at the same time. For the Eastern Time zone, the hour of unity is 12-1 a.m.

However, due to unique schedules and conditions, some parishes may adjust the schedule of the service.

"For many years, this event has brought believers into the presence of our Eucharist and our Blessed Mother to pray for an end to the tragedy of abortion," said Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life.

"Such activity on the part of God's people is a fulfillment of our Holy Father's call in 'The Gospel of Life,' as well as the call of our U.S. bishops,

to have more fervent, regular prayer on behalf of life," he said.

WANT TO GO?

The National Night of Prayer for Life runs 9 p.m., Dec. 8, until 1 a.m., Dec. 9. However, times may vary for participating churches. Please call the church for the schedule.

Participating parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte area:

- Holy Family Church, Clemmons — (336) 778-0600
- Holy Redeemer Church, Andrews — (828) 321-4463
- Holy Spirit Church, Denver — (704) 483-6448
- Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro — (336) 274-6520
- Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington — (336) 248-2463
- Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury — (704) 633-0591
- St. Ann Church, Charlotte — (704) 523-4641
- St. Mark Church, Huntersville — (704) 948-0231
- St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia — (704) 867-6212
- St. Matthew Church, Charlotte — (704) 543-7677
- St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte — (704) 334-2283
- St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte — (704) 549-1607

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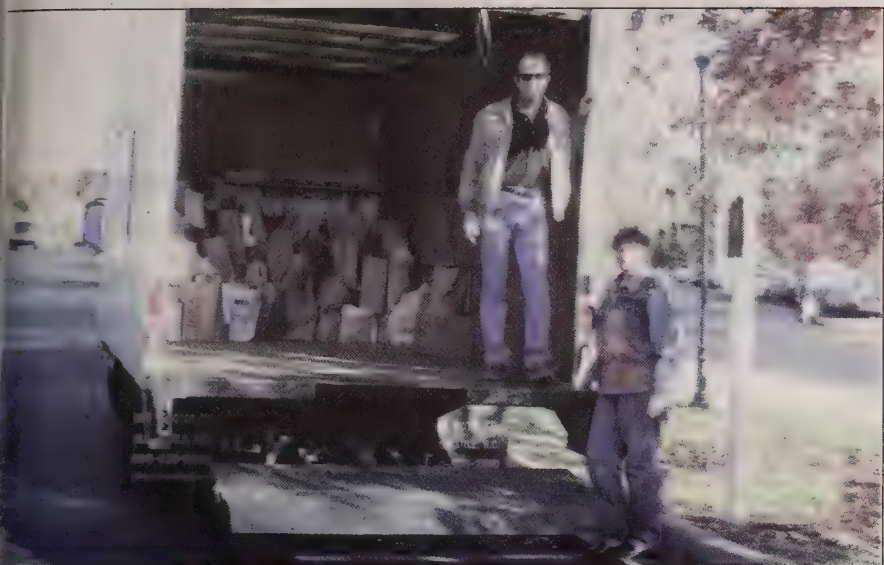
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GIVING THANKS

More food in Mooresville



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK NASH

Bob and Barbara Cella, members of the community outreach group at St. Therese Church in Mooresville, help load 6,000 pounds of food Nov. 16. The food was collected by parishioners for Mooresville Christian Mission and Mooresville Soup Kitchen.

Pilgrim prayers



COURTESY PHOTO

Pre-kindergarten students wear their self-made paper Pilgrim hats as part of their Thanksgiving celebration at St. Michael School in Gastonia Nov. 25. The students learned about the Pilgrims, Native Americans and the history of Thanksgiving before enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving lunch.

Bountiful baskets

Volunteers unload 115 baskets of Thanksgiving items donated by parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte outside the diocesan Pastoral Center Nov. 24. Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte donated approximately 112 baskets, all of which were distributed to needy families the same day through the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Giving thanks at the pow-wow



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students dress as Native Americans for a "pow-wow" celebrating Thanksgiving at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte Nov. 21. The students had been studying Native American culture and how different tribes gathered for pow-wows to celebrate peace with singing and dancing. The students made vests, headdresses and "rain sticks," and teacher Lynn Ruff told them Native American stories by a pretend bonfire.

Helping the hungry



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-graders Will Shannon and Jack Lizotte of St. Pius X School in Greensboro carry donated food items Nov. 14 that were collected during the school's annual food drive in November to benefit the Greensboro Servant Center. Students and their families collected 500 pounds of canned goods and food, including 200 chickens, to be delivered to needy persons on Thanksgiving through the center.

Endowments benefit church, school, diocese

LEGACY, from page 1

people and I think that says a lot about them," said Drahos.

"They felt they didn't need the money, there were people who did and the church would put it to good use," she said.

In 1998, the Hilberts set up a charitable remainder uni trust. For the next 10 years they lived off the income from that trust.

"Their goal was to do something to benefit them and the church as well," said Jim Kelley, director of diocesan development and director of the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

George Hilbert died a few years ago and Edith passed away in March. At the time of her death, the remaining principal of the trust was \$362,000.

The principal was split between three endowments: 50 percent went to the Diocese of Charlotte, 25 percent went to Asheville Catholic School and 25 percent was used to establish the very first endowment at their parish, St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

"They were outstanding parishioners here," said Father Frank Seabo, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church.

They were both active leaders in the parish, he said.

"Edith was a lector and George was prominent in helping us and tying into the community at large," he added.

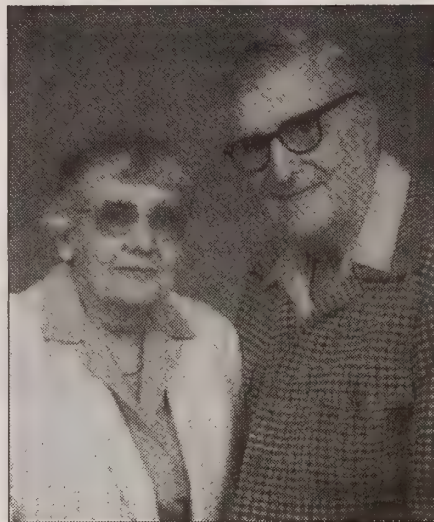
The Hilberts had been living in a retirement community in Black Mountain for the past 20 years.

They didn't have any children of their own, but they were godparents to 18 children, according to Drahos.

"They would have loved to have had children and I think they would have enjoyed them immensely," she said.

Now, children at Asheville Catholic School will benefit from the Hilberts' generosity.

"We will use the income off the new endowment to pay for need-based scholarships, three merit-based scholarships, teacher continuing education and curriculum enhancements," said Bridget Eckerd, head of the educational foundation committee for Asheville



COURTESY PHOTO / UNITED CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Edith and George Hilbert in May 1996.

Catholic School.

The endowment will allow the committee to purchase equipment for the school such as computers, smart boards and furniture for classrooms that they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

"Whenever a teacher needs something, we can say yes instead of no," said Eckerd.

The additional funds coming from the Hilberts' endowment will "help us to continue to do those things at a higher level," she said.

The diocesan foundation is a nonprofit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time.

The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the donor's estate plan or in an endowment agreement.

Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund. A committee of three to five members is set up for each endowment to determine how funds will be distributed.

"More and more people are doing what the Hilberts did," said Kelley.

"They decided to leave something to the church they love and left a legacy to their faith," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Established in 1994, the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte provides endowments for the diocese and its churches, schools, agencies and organizations. Over the past 14 years, more than \$3.7 million has been made available for distribution by 174 endowments to parishes, schools and agencies in the diocese.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkelley@charlottediocese.org.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Are their people in your parish living the tenets of the faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event? If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Program explores Bible, God's presence in history

BIBLE, from page 1

Theological Union, he served at Villanova University as chaplain of the law school and as adjunct theology professor.

The Nov. 20 program's goals were to foster a deeper appreciation of our Catholic approach to the Bible; heighten an awareness of God's presence in the forces of history; and help teachers feel confident discussing the Acts of the Apostles.

"The Bible is true, but let's consider what kind of truth it is," Father Denny told the group.

The Bible is the revealed word of God and teaches religious truth, he said. For example, the book of Genesis contains two creation stories, both of which tell the same truth: God created everything out of nothing.

We need materials in order to create, Father Denny said, but God creates without materials.

Also, "Every language has slang expressions and idioms," Father Denny said. "It doesn't make any sense (to think) that Jesus didn't use slang and idioms."

Slang and idioms cannot be understood literally, he said, and the Bible is no exception. Jesus' statement that, "(I)t is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich

"The Catholic approach to the Bible is based on good linguistic scholarship."

— Augustinian Father John Denny

to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24), is just such an expression.

The "eye of the needle" was a low gate that a camel could get through if it got on its knees. Father Denny explained the truth Jesus was teaching is that "it's hard to get to heaven, you must be humbled, scrape your knees, but you can get there."

And, Father Denny added, Jesus wasn't talking about the fabulously wealthy: "By Jesus' standards we're all rich. We're not working for a subsistence living seven days a week."

Jesus was fully divine and fully human, said Father Denny.

"Jesus, fully human, spoke in fully human language," he said.

"It's not the ancient text that changes," Father Denny said. "It's living language that changes. Be open to good scholarly translations. The Catholic approach to the Bible is based on good linguistic scholarship."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

A parishioner of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley chats with her pastor, Augustinian Father John Denny, during a break in his program on "Acts of the Apostles" at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Nov. 20.

In Jesus' time, there were four groups of Jews: Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots and Essenes. The Sadducees were the priestly elite. They believed that only the first five books of the Bible (the Torah) were the revealed word of God.

Resurrection, an essential truth of Christian faith, isn't mentioned in those books, so it wasn't essential to the Sadducees' faith.

However, Father Denny said, "The Pharisees accepted most of what we would call the Old Testament. The Pharisees believed in angels, spirits and resurrection. They were very, very taken with the idea that because (Jesus) was preaching resurrection he might be the messiah."

Father Denny pointed out that, "The Pharisees were Jesus' crowd; he had their ideas. Who do you argue with? Your friends. Jesus is so annoyed at them because he wants them to take the next step and come with him."

History and faith

Father Denny's outline for the program explained that the Acts is a "faith history of the first 30 years of the church from its origins in Jerusalem to its establishment in Rome ..."

In Acts we meet Paul, who "repeatedly identifies himself with the Pharisees," Father Denny said. "As a Pharisee, Paul has come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. 'Messiah' is a Hebrew word, which, translated into Greek and Latin, is 'Christ.' In English it translates as 'the anointed one.'"

"Mary would never have referred to her son as Jesus Christ," he continued. "It was not his last name. Christ is a title: the Christ. The key to understanding Paul is

Paul's belief that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one."

What, exactly, does that mean?

Father Denny pointed out that in Jesus' time, "the world stank." Garbage was everywhere. A person probably bathed only a few times in his entire life. The Jews were the exception and "were considered crazy because of their emphasis on cleanliness."

"The anointed one — the messiah — is the sweet-smelling one, the one who saves us from sin, sickness and death, which are what stink up our world," Father Denny said.

Luke wrote both his Gospel, recounting events in Jesus' life, and the Acts of the Apostles, in which we meet Paul, read about his travels from Jerusalem and eventually to Rome.

"Luke is not an eyewitness to the Gospel," Father Denny said. "Like us, (Luke and Paul) have come to believe in the testimony of others."

Luke wrote for everyone. In the beginning of both his Gospel and Acts, he refers to "Theophilus," which is a made-up name meaning "lover of God."

"Theophilus," Father Denny said, "is all of us."

Luke tells, in Acts 9, how Paul is on his way to Damascus to arrest more Christians when a bright light surrounds him. He falls to the ground and hears a voice.

"Paul's most powerful image of church — the body of Christ — comes from this (voice): 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' It's Jesus, totally identifying himself with his followers."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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Congolese bishops denounce tolerance of hostilities in their country

Pope condemns atrocities, appeals for peace

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

KINSHASA, Congo — A group of Congolese bishops has denounced the international community's tolerance of increasing hostilities in eastern Congo, which they called a "silent genocide" against the civilian population there.

We are calling on the international community to work sincerely to ensure respect for international law," said the Congolese bishops' committee in a Nov. 13 statement on the war in the east and northeast of Congo.

Decrying the alleged inaction of the U.N. peacekeeping mission MONUC, which the bishops accused of standing by and watching the violence, the bishops said it is "crucial that a peace and stabilization force be sent to re-establish order in our country."

"The situation has reached intolerable proportions which are very worrying and could destabilize the whole region if nothing is done," they said.

Gratuitous large-scale massacres of the civilian population, targeted murders of young people and systematic rapes perpetrated as a weapon of war now are part of the daily routine in the area north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu, they said.

They pointed out that these conflicts between armed groups are taking place where mineral resources are mined.

"It is obvious that the natural resources of ... Congo are fueling the greed of certain powers and these natural resources are not unrelated to the violence now being inflicted on the population," they said.

Referring to the peace accord signed in January 2008 by all the armed groups, the bishops asked, "How is it possible that these accords are being violated without any pressure to force the signatories to respect them?"

Ongoing fighting between rebels and pro-government forces has led to more than 1.5 million refugees. The most recent violence has displaced at least

250,000 people since the conflict flared in August.

Recent waves of "destruction, pillaging and violence of every kind have forced" these people "to abandon what little they had in order to survive," said Pope Benedict XVI Nov. 9.

The pope condemned the systematic atrocities, killings and violence targeting innocent people in Congo and called for all sides to work for peace.

Pope Benedict said his prayers were with those suffering from the fresh outbreak of violence, and he sent encouragement to relief workers, especially from the local churches.

He appealed to all sides to "work together to restore peace in that land (that has been) martyred for too long."

He said the conflict must be ended in a way that is lawful and, above all, respects the dignity of every person.

Meanwhile, Caritas Internationalis, the international umbrella group of Catholic aid agencies, launched an emergency appeal to help tens of thousands of people living "in dire conditions either in camps or in the bush."

While international staff had to be evacuated from the area, local Caritas personnel remain on the ground to support those in need, Caritas said in an Oct. 30 press release.

However, fighting has halted the distribution of planned aid in Goma, it said.

"We're witnessing the escalation of a humanitarian disaster," said Father Pierre Cibambo, Caritas Internationalis Africa liaison officer.

In a Nov. 7 press release, the Jesuit Refugee Service also called on the international community to help reinforce peacekeeping efforts to protect civilians, quell the violence and increase security so aid agencies can have access to those who have been displaced by the fighting.



CNS PHOTO BY FINBARR O'REILLY, REUTERS

Children who have been abandoned or orphaned by war sit at the Don Bosco center in Goma, eastern Congo, Nov. 20. Fighting in eastern Congo has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians, and more than 1,500 people have taken shelter at the Salesian-run center.

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Pastoral letter's peace goals remain unfulfilled

PEACE, from page 1

lost, according to some of the country's leading peace advocates.

"It's a different time. It's a different world. But the principles are timeless," John Carr, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told Catholic News Service.

"What the bishops said, what the church continues to say is more important than ever," Carr added. "I think the church these days is more involved in questions of international affairs and in questions of war and peace than back then."

Written during the Cold War as President Ronald Reagan was proposing a new generation of high-tech weapons to secure U.S. military supremacy, the pastoral letter offered world leaders a moral vision on ending the arms race and working toward nuclear disarmament.

The document made clear that possessing nuclear weapons was immoral but offered the notion of conditional acceptance only if such weapons were being held to deter a nuclear attack as long as the eventual goal was disarmament.

In addition, the bishops supported conscientious objection for individuals opposed to carrying arms. They also urged people of faith to turn to prayer, penance and nonviolence to bring peace to family, work and social relationships.

"Our intentions were to change people's minds and hearts and attitudes and that only happens in a very deep way through prayer," said retired Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit.

He was one of five prelates on a committee chaired by the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago who wrote the letter.

A sixth partner in the effort was

Father J. Bryan Hehir, who today is secretary for health and human services in the Boston Archdiocese. He headed the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace at the time. He could not be reached for comment.

The only other committee member alive today, retired Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., said the authors rooted the document in the tenets of the Catholic faith.

A key underlying message, he explained, was respect for the other, which can be found especially in family and community.

"We have to set up human relationships in such a way that we can try to live in peace," he said.

Catholic peace movement

While "The Challenge of Peace" has hardly influenced world leaders to eliminate nuclear stockpiles, Bishop Gumbleton said the document has as much to say about today's "global war on terror" as it did on the morality of launching a nuclear war in 1983.

"I'm convinced we're in a more dangerous situation now than we were even then," Bishop Gumbleton told CNS.

Unfortunately, Bishop Gumbleton and several other peace advocates said, the pastoral letter is rarely cited or discussed today, having largely been relegated to bookshelves and library stacks.

"It hasn't been a part of peoples' consciences as we had intended it to be," he said.

Despite its reduced profile, the document legitimized the Catholic peace movement, which, until the bishops spoke, largely had been relegated to the church's margins.

Organizations such as Pax Christi USA, which had been seeking nuclear disarmament and stressing the practice of nonviolence for years, found wider acceptance as their message was being embraced by the bishops.



CNS PHOTO BY CEERWAN AZIZ, REUTERS

A priest says funeral rites Nov. 13 for a Christian resident killed in a bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq. A car bomb and roadside bomb exploding in quick succession killed 12 people and wounded 60 Nov. 12 in the eastern New Baghdad district of Iraq's capital. The core messages of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on peace, issued 25 years ago, include the importance of peacemaking in everyone's life.

Making peace every day

Over the years, the concept of peacemaking in everyday life has been integrated in peace studies programs at colleges and universities and the teaching of conflict resolution skills and nonviolence to students in Catholic schools, explained Franciscan Sister Marie Lucey, associate director for social mission at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in Silver Spring, Md.

"I think the bishops addressing the nonviolent position was important at that time and is still important today," said Sister Lucey, who represents the leadership conference at Faithful Security, a national religious partnership on the dangers of nuclear weapons.

"That's what we strive for," she said.

One such effort is being undertaken at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., where students can readily learn about the church's long-held teachings on peace and justice.

"So many of the students are thrilled to find out about the theology of peace in the Catholic Church," said Laurie Gagne, director of the Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice at the college.

"They say, 'Why haven't I heard about this before?'" she said.

Gagne said she would like to see the topic addressed in homilies more often so that no one is ever surprised to hear what the church teaches about war and peace.

Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, bishop president of Pax Christi USA, agrees that the role of peacemaking is everyone's responsibility.

In an Oct. 9 lecture at Jesuit-run Seattle University as part of an observance of the pastoral letter's silver anniversary, he said the document and Catholic social teaching can still help shift the emphasis of U.S. foreign policy from demonstrating military might to diplomacy.

In an interview with CNS, Bishop Zavala cited the peacemaking example of Jesus as a model for

21st-century Catholics.

"We need to get more involved in the peace movement," he said. "Jesus was a man of peace, not of violence. We have a tradition in our church of promoting peace."

"We can get involved in peace movements and something as simple as praying for peace in our parishes, having peace and justice commissions in every parish, having small groups seeing how they can promote peace in their own communities," he added.

Along those lines, Pax Christi USA is drafting a People's Peace Initiative, which executive director Dave Robinson hopes will reinvigorate interest in the pastoral and widen interest in taking steps for peace from families to the public policy arena.

"It's designed along the same lines as the pastoral. It starts with Scripture and Catholic social teaching and articulates issues from the grass roots and lays out a process for peacemaking for Catholics in the new century," Robinson told CNS.

"Peacemaking begins with the individual human heart and it extends out from there," he added. "If your nonviolence and commitment to peacemaking doesn't extend from you and your family and into the community, and you bypass that and go straight into policymaking, you're missing an important step."

Even as such efforts are under way, the USCCB's Carr said the future of the peace pastoral will depend on how seriously the bishops' call to be peacemakers — the fourth and final section of the letter — is taken by everyday Catholics in their busy lives.

"(Catholics) have gone from knowing little to knowing something (about church teaching on peace). But we need to know a lot more," he said.

"Peacemaking is not an optional commitment, as the bishops state. It's a requirement of our faith," Carr said. "Peacemaking is not simply nuclear disarmament. It's putting an end to violence in its many forms."

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Mother Teresa still has lessons to teach world, says priest-author

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — More than 10 years after her death, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta still has lessons to teach the world, according to the priest who co-founded the Missionaries of Charity Fathers with her and has written a new book about her.

Father Joseph Langford, a 57-year-old native of Toledo, Ohio, said he wrote "Mother Teresa's Secret Fire" to try to explain "what made Mother Teresa Mother Teresa" and how she sustained hope, joy and a belief in the possibility of change in the face of inner and external challenges.

"As America faces its own dark night of the soul," he said, Mother Teresa shows Americans and the rest of the world "how to live joyfully, creatively, in a way that leaves a legacy."

In a Nov. 18 interview with Catholic News Service, Father Langford said Mother Teresa asked him to write the book after she revealed to him in 1986 the details of her "call within a call" 40 years earlier.

On a day in 1946 that she came to call "inspiration day," as she was on a train to Darjeeling, India, to begin a retreat, Mother Teresa heard a call from God to give up her safe, relatively comfortable life as a schoolteacher and as a Sister of Loreto to live among the destitute and dying in Calcutta and establish a new religious community.

"She was not special, she was not unique, she had no special support system, and look what she did," the priest said.

Father Langford, ordained a priest of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in 1978, was inspired to join in Mother Teresa's work by another book about her, Malcolm Muggeridge's "Something Beautiful for God."

Together they founded the Missionaries of Charity Fathers in 1984; the order has its international headquarters in Tijuana, Mexico.

"My first meeting with her was

mediated by a book," he said. "So I wanted to pay forward the blessing of having been close to her for 30 years."

The Albanian-born nun told Father Langford about her transformational experience as they were preparing a constitution for the priests' branch of the Missionaries of Charity.

"There were things I wanted to include in the constitution about her way of seeing things, of experiencing things," he said. After she told her story, she told the priest, "One day you must tell the others."

The revelation that came to Mother Teresa on the train to Darjeeling centers on "the mystery of Jesus' thirst."

Although Father Langford said the concept is too complex to summarize in a few words, Mother Teresa once called it "the depths of God's infinite longing to love and be loved."

"She was convinced that grace was given not only to a few but to everybody — for the poorest of the poor and for the rest of us, as much as we could accept our own poverty," he said.

The book features many of Mother Teresa's own letters and other writings, which Father Langford said show "a tremendous depth of theology that I think is going to surprise people."

He also said many people misunderstood the message contained in a collection of her writings published last year as "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light."

In the book, Mother Teresa described her own crises of faith and said she felt for many years that God had abandoned her.

By revealing her own inner struggles, Mother Teresa showed others the way out of darkness, Father Langford said, praising her ability to "make life beautiful where it is ugliest."

"I have seen with my own eyes how her message can touch, heal and change lives," he said. "My hope is that her message will transform the reader's life, even as it already has for so many others."

Dec. 7, Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle B. Readings:

1) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm 85:9-14

2) 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

We must listen for God's voice in all places

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Paul was 70 years old before he heard the voice crying out in the wilderness.

He had been a good Catholic his entire life, attending Mass regularly. He was a loving, dedicated husband and father and a successful business executive.

Then, one night shortly into his retirement, Paul heard the voice crying out, first in a dream.

It was so real to him that he listened. But the idea of such a dream was so irrational and unfamiliar that he was embarrassed to recount it to anyone.

However, the dream recurred — several times — and he felt compelled to tell his wife, Chris.

"I dreamed I was building a school. In Guatemala!" he said incredulously (he'd never been to Guatemala).

It seemed a little strange to her, too, to be talking about this dream. But it struck her as significant.

Then the two of them together heard the voice crying out, this time at church in the person of a visiting Haitian pastor. He wanted to build a school in a remote

village in his country.

Recognizing the voice, the couple committed themselves to helping their parish fund construction of the school. A few months later Chris became terminally ill and her final, urgent wish was to ensure that the school would be built.

They donated the amount needed.

After Chris's death, Paul, fluent in French, and the Haitian pastor became close personal friends and Paul became deeply involved in the life and development of his Haitian community.

Peter's words in this weekend's readings tell us that God doesn't mind that it took Paul 70 years to get to this place: "With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day," he says.

What happened was Paul and Chris made straight the paths of the Lord to enter the life of a Haitian village. Unexpectedly, but just as powerfully, the paths also led to the transformation of their own life with Jesus.

This story was foretold in Isaiah. "A voice cries out ... the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together ... here is his reward with him."

Paul and Chris listened to the voice, opened the path and the Savior came.

Questions:

What obstacles in your life might keep you from hearing God's voice in an unexpected place? How can you clear the way for Christ to be present in your day-to-day living?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ... Behold I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way" (Mark 1:1-2).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 30-DEC. 6

Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37; **Monday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Francis Xavier)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. John of Damascus)**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 29:17-23, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (St. Nicholas)**, Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 7-13

Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8; **Monday (Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Juan Diego)**, Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. Damasus I)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:39-47; **Saturday (St. Lucy)**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9-13.



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Rev. Joseph McCarth	2001
Rev. Francis Scheurich	1975
Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Smith	1983
Rev. Vincent M. Stokes	1979

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—Springfield News-Sun

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Chance meeting with teacher leads to made-for-TV movie

Shriver says Catholic faith guides how he views world, people

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Special Olympics chairman Tim Shriver occasionally dabbles in the entertainment industry. But having just come off a theatrical movie ("The Ringer") for which he served as executive producer, he wasn't casting about for a new possibility.

Then he met Brad Cohen.

Shriver recalls going to Connecticut to speak to a state high school conference in early 2006.

"The topic was diversity and difference. I know I was invited to speak on the topic of Special Olympics," he recalled. "There were about 1,000 high school kids and I was all fired up."

Instead, he went over like a lead balloon.

"My speech fell flat," he told Catholic News Service Nov. 19. "I tried everything I could and I couldn't get it going."

He chalked it up to tired and bored kids and the hall's acoustics, and he started working on his BlackBerry.

Then "Brad comes up and the place goes nuts," Shriver said. "I sort of look up half-embarrassed and half-amazed."

Cohen has Tourette's syndrome — a neuropsychiatric disorder characterized by multiple physical tics and verbal tics — and he was there to tell his story to the youngsters. Despite his affliction, which cannot be cured, he became a successful teacher, and his autobiography landed him a guest spot on "Oprah."

As fate would have it, Shriver and Cohen also were in the same minivan to be taken to the airport for flights to their respective homes.

Shriver said he told Cohen, "I'm not a movie producer by profession, but if you ever want a hand in it (a movie about his life), people would love to watch it. ... It's a got a great message."

It didn't take long for Cohen to agree.

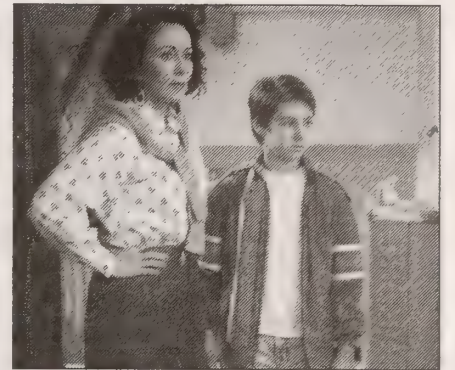
"It wasn't the hardest selling job I'll ever have to do," Shriver said.

The result is "Front of the Class," which will air Sunday, Dec. 7, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS as a "Hallmark Hall of Fame" presentation. Shriver served as executive producer.

James Wolk, who has appeared on the CBS soap opera "As the World Turns," plays the adult Brad, while Dominic Scott Kay plays Brad as a middle-schooler whose life is clearly miserable until an understanding principal gives him confidence and inspires him to become a teacher.

Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond") and Treat Williams ("Everwood") play his parents.

"When I see Brad, I think a lot of how I see him comes from my education at Catholic," Shriver told CNS, in a reference to the Catholic University of America in Washington.



CNS PHOTO BY JON FARMER, COURTESY OF CBS

Patricia Heaton and Dominic Scott Kay star in a scene from "Head of the Class," which will air Sunday, Dec. 7, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS as a "Hallmark Hall of Fame" presentation. Special Olympics chairman Tim Shriver, a Catholic, is executive producer of the movie.

"For example, for role models, for affirmations and faith. It's not just what you see in church; it's what you see in day-to-day life that matters," he said.

Shriver, who is Catholic, earned a master's degree in spirituality at Catholic University.

"I was and still am very interested in education," he said. "I felt that a lot of children were bringing to the schools that I was with questions of ultimate value — spiritual questions, their purpose in the world, where did they fit in the world and did it matter."

His prior training in education didn't supply those kinds of answers, "so I went to study the spiritual development of children," Shriver said.

"It proved to be one of the turning points in my life to read the mystics and learn from them," he said, and learn about "the deep and profound ways the spirit emerges from the heart, a way of looking at faith from the inside out. ... I have a huge debt of gratitude to Catholic (University) for the training I got there."

Asked about the seemingly ever-expanding Kennedy clan of which he's a member, Shriver acknowledged it's tough to keep up with all his kin.

"The people I'd like to see more are my wife and kids. I have two children in college, one doing a high school year abroad in Beijing, and an amazing wife, and I don't see them enough," he said.

"My folks (Special Olympics founder Eunice Shriver and one-time Peace Corps and Job Corps director Sargent Shriver) are still alive and still in Washington and I'd like to see them more," he added.

Rattling off the names of cousins, he said, "My cousin Teddy up in Connecticut, my cousin Caroline (Kennedy Schlossberg) in New York — we have a wonderful time together. I'm very blessed. My brothers and my sister are my best friends."

"I do wish we had a little bit more of a focus in our family system on downtime, but that just wasn't in the training program," he added.

Bishops note Obama's historic win but worry about his abortion policy

OBAMA, from page 1

and significant moment" and another expressing hope it will usher in "a new era of racial harmony."

However, many bishops—including Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte—also expressed caution, warning that the new president could further divide the country if he supports legislation that would change regulations on abortion.

In statements and in columns published in their diocesan newspapers in late November, a number of prelates echoed the postelection statement released Nov. 12 by the body of Catholic bishops during their annual fall meeting.

In that statement, the bishops emphasized their concern about the possible passage of the Freedom of Choice Act during the Obama administration, calling the legislation "an evil law that would further divide our country" and adding that the church "should be intent on opposing evil."

Bishop Jugis, in a Nov. 25 statement to *The Catholic News & Herald*, said the "intentional destruction of an innocent human being is gravely immoral."

"It will be necessary for all of us to contact our representatives, our senators and President-elect Obama to express our firm opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act," he said.

Versions of that measure have been introduced in Congress since the early 1990s.

The latest version, introduced in April 2007, would establish federal protection of abortion as a "fundamental right" throughout the nine months of pregnancy, regardless of existing state laws to restrict it.

In a January 2008 statement, Obama said he would support this legislation.

Bishop Jugis said he will participate in a 54-day rosary novena Nov. 30-Jan. 22 to pray for Obama and Vice President-elect Joseph Biden "that they have changes of heart and not proceed down the path of more anti-life policies and legislation for our country."

In their individual statements, the other bishops reiterated concern about the Freedom of Choice Act.

Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien called Obama's support of the Freedom of Choice Act a "particular concern to Catholics and others seeking to promote a culture of life."

In a Nov. 11 column in *The Catholic Review*, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper, he also said it was critically important for people to voice their "grave concerns" to elected officials regarding this "uncompromising legislation."

Bishop Paul S. Coakley of Salina, Kan., said he hopes the president-elect "will recognize that this bad legislation would immediately alienate tens of millions of Americans who are passionately committed to the protection

"The intentional destruction of an innocent human being is gravely immoral."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

of human life from conception to its natural end."

"Signing any such law would undermine (Obama's) pledge and ability to unite our divided nation," he added in a statement published in the Nov. 21 issue of Salina's diocesan paper, *The Register*.

Similarly, Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans Nov. 15 criticized Obama's promise to sign the Freedom of Choice Act. The archbishop said the legislation threatens the dignity of "our unborn brothers and sisters."

He also said he hopes the president-elect would "see the wisdom of uniting our nation in support of life at all stages and to include the unborn among those this country respects and protects."

The Catholic vote

At least two bishops also reflected on how Catholics voted in the presidential election:

Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo, N.D., noted that during the election campaign he was "surprised and saddened at how little some Catholics know and accept the teaching of the church on the matter of abortion."

He said he received messages from Catholics complaining that he hadn't "spoken forcefully enough" in opposition to a candidate's abortion stance, while others described themselves as "Catholic and pro-choice," which the bishop described as "impossible."

In his column for the November issue of Fargo's diocesan paper, *New Earth*, Bishop Aquila also said there had been a "misunderstanding among some Catholics that abortion is just one issue among many issues."

He said Catholics should be concerned about the economy, immigration, the war in Iraq and health care, but noted that "the right to life, from the moment of conception until natural death, is the first among all rights."

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., took issue with what has been described as the "Catholic vote," noting the different voting patterns among Catholics who are regular churchgoers and the entire Catholic population.

He said 58 percent of Catholics overall voted for Obama while 49 percent of weekly churchgoers did.

In a column in the Nov. 22 issue of *The Tablet*, Brooklyn's diocesan newspaper, he stressed that although bishops and priests can help form consciences, they do not endorse candidates or "tell people for whom to vote, although we can indicate the moral issues and the candidates' stands."



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN GRESS, REUTERS

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and President-elect Barack Obama meet in Obama's transition office in Chicago Nov. 17. Obama said he and the Arizona senator plan to work together to "fix up the country."

Healing the divide

In reflecting on the historic nature of the '08 election, many of the bishops said they hoped the nation's first African-American president might begin to heal the country's racial divides.

Bishop DiMarzio said the election could be a sign that we are "overcoming the evil of racism and Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Wilmington, Del., said in a Nov. 13 statement he hoped Obama's presidency would "help initiate an ever-deepening process of racial reconciliation in our country, the history of which has been scarred by slavery, segregation and racism."

Bishop Coakley said Obama's election "has struck a profound chord within our nation's consciousness." In his statement, he also noted that whether or not people voted for Obama "he will soon become our president."

"We owe him our respect, our support and our prayers," he added, calling the task before him "formidable."

Cooperative spirit

Other bishops likewise noted that the president-elect faces immense challenges and needs support and prayers along with a cooperative spirit.

Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of

Mobile, Ala., said the new president "will inherit great challenges" such as the threat of wars, the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons, hunger, sickness, poverty and economic difficulties.

"Addressing these challenges will not be easy," he said, adding that "we need to pray for our president."

Writing in the Nov. 21 issue of *The Catholic Week*, the archdiocesan newspaper, Archbishop Rodi added that the "future welfare of our nation calls us to work together."

He said he was confident the country could become more unified under Obama's leadership but only if the new president focused primarily on economic issues.

"If, on the other hand, he pursues an agenda of seeking to undermine traditional marriage and respect for life, as some of his supporters strongly desire, he will alienate millions of Americans from his administration and exacerbate the divisions in our nation," the archbishop wrote.

"Let us pray that he will bring us together," he said, "especially when so many of us wish him well and want him to succeed."

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

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Running the right way



COURTESY PHOTO

Seated in the school gymnasium Oct. 9 are members of the Girls on the Run program, which just started this fall at St. Patrick School in Charlotte. Girls on the Run encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The curricula address the girls' physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

Pictured are (first row) Ann Marie Stieglitz, Sarah Anderson, Sheilds Norvell, Katie Koesters, Annie Clouden, Caroline Schreder, (second row) Katie Montana, Emma Rose Lowder, Emma Scrimgeour, Mary Griggs, Sarah Gilles and Anna Jessica Farrell.

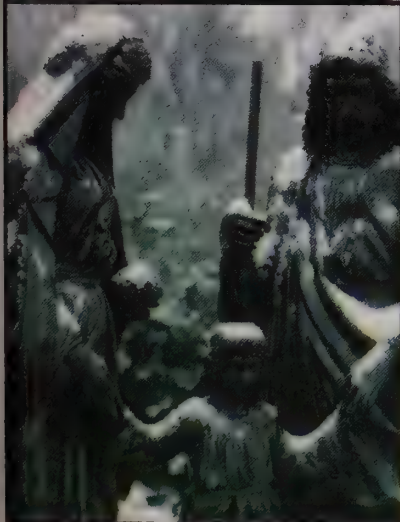
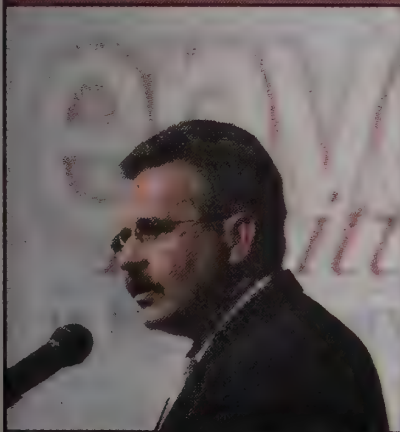
Scanning the neighborhood



COURTESY PHOTO

Grace Wielechowski, a second-grader at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, scans a grocery item at a grocery store while on a field trip with her class Oct. 10. The field trip was part of the "annual second grade walking tour" around Cotswold. As part of the experience, the students studied the similarities and differences among several institutions and stores in different neighborhoods, as well as reviewed maps and discussed roles of adults in various neighborhoods and communities.

DECEMBER 6: PATRICK MADRID, FATHER RICHARD DECLUE LEAD AN ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION



Come "prepare the way of the Lord" in your heart with our very special Advent Morning of Reflection, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 6th in the Haid Ballroom at Belmont Abbey College.

Our reflection leaders will be renowned author and speaker Patrick Madrid, and the equally inspirational Father Richard DeClue, Abbey Class of '02.

Mr. Madrid's topic is "Telling It Like It Is: How To Speak The Truth With Love." He will be recounting some personal anecdotes and drawing real-life lessons from those on how we can boldly proclaim the Truth, yet do so with gentleness and respect.

Father DeClue's topic is "Advent: A Season Of Hope." He plans to talk about how hope can lead to genuine repentance – turning away from sin and reorienting ourselves with the love and joy of God – and vice versa.

Admission is just \$7 per person, and refreshments and a copy of the timeless classic *The Rule of St. Benedict* are included in the price. (Coffee and other refreshments will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m.)

Our seating capacity is limited, so please register online to reserve your seat here:

<http://alumni.belmontabbeycollege.edu/AdventMorningReflectionPaidRegistration>

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Marking the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day

Caritas president says more work needs to be done

This Dec. 1 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. This day of official reflection by the international community offers the opportunity to assess the successes and failures in combating HIV/AIDS, and to reflect on what lies ahead in this struggle.

The Catholic Church, as a member of the world body of nations and as the largest provider of charitable and health services to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, also sees World AIDS Day as an opportunity to reflect on its efforts in this struggle and on how it might be a more effective voice in the world forum as an advocate for those who suffer.

In a Nov. 18 statement, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, president of Caritas Internationalis, the international organization of 162 national Catholic charities, offered these words for World AIDS Day 2008:

"Despite some progress, HIV is a major obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]. The pandemic causes incalculable human suffering. It threatens the social and economic infrastructure of the human family. More needs to be done."

The MDGs are eight goals agreed to by world leaders in 2000 that, if achieved, will move hundreds of millions of people out of poverty by 2015. International development activity today is framed by the MDGs and their associated benchmark targets.

Combating HIV/AIDS and other devastating diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis is the sixth MDG.

Achieving this goal will be no easy task, for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has proven itself to be one tough virus. It successfully hides as it spreads from host to host before immune system collapse occurs — causing acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

It takes advantage of other health maladies (such as, malaria, nutritional deficiencies, sexually transmitted diseases) to spread faster. The antiretroviral therapy that has saved millions of lives is very costly, required for life and must be administered through a vigilantly followed regimen.

Progress toward an HIV vaccine has been frustratingly slow. There is no cure.

The Catholic Church has stressed in its long, committed fight against HIV/AIDS that morally licit behavior modification strategies — such as, fidelity within marriage and abstinence outside of marriage — be promoted.

The U.S. bishops were successful in

Guest Column

JOSEPH
PURELLO
GUEST COLUMNIST



their advocacy goal that U.S. faith-based organizations — such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS) — receiving government funding not be required to promote HIV/AIDS reduction strategies in conflict with their moral teachings.

In July, a bill reauthorizing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was passed, providing \$48 billion over five years — nearly triple previous PEPFAR funding levels. PEPFAR is producing results — HIV/AIDS deaths have fallen from 2.2 million people in 2005 to an estimated 2 million people in 2008.

In response to PEPFAR's reauthorization, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, stated, "We welcome the retention of abstinence, fidelity and partner reduction, which have proved highly effective in curbing the spread of HIV in many countries, as major components of HIV prevention education."

CRS remains a significant recipient of PEPFAR funds, offering a continuum of HIV/AIDS services around the world that adhere to the Catholic Church's moral teachings. Such services include testing, medical intervention, nutritional support, family and orphan care, and care to people in the last stages of AIDS.

Cardinal Rodriguez's closing remarks in commemoration of World AIDS Day 2008 present the task before the church as it combats HIV/AIDS.

He stated:

"We advocate at all levels for an end to discrimination and policies that are sensitive to the needs of those most vulnerable to the pandemic. Part of the essential 'capital' of the poor person is good health. We will be committed to raising those assets."

Please join with the church's efforts — in prayer, in solidarity with those who suffer and in your generous giving to organizations such as CRS — to bring good health to the world's poor.

Purello is director of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bringing the food forward

Filling food pantries for a hungry winter in America

The woman who got the last package of hamburger from the food pantry's refrigerator began to cry softly. As she received her bags of beans and rice, she continued to murmur about how that gift of meat proved to her that God was still with her.

If I had any doubt that my new volunteer job at our local Catholic Social Services' food pantry would have touching moments, those doubts evaporated when I saw the first tear fall.

This is going to be a hungry winter in America. Financial calamity and hunger arrive at the front door of the poor first. And I'm meeting some of that hunger face to face every Monday afternoon.

The young, slight Sudanese man, his young daughter in tow, spoke almost no English. He had to look carefully at the pictures on vegetable cans to see which variety of his allotted two he should pick.

But his little daughter understood my comments enough to respond with a huge smile when told how pretty she was; she then opened her coat to display a brightly colored dress of which she was obviously very proud.

Then there was the woman who declined the box of cereal because, she said, "I don't have any milk." Fortunately, I was able to tell her the pantry had a gallon of milk for her that day.

There was the woman who couldn't believe her good fortune in being handed a bag of freshly ground coffee.

"I've been craving coffee," she confessed.

I realized then why it was good for me to be in the food pantry. Because even though I don't think of myself as rich, I treat myself to a gourmet latte every now and then.

And more than that, I wake up every morning knowing that if I want to splurge at my neighborhood coffee shop, I can.

That's the big difference, you see. I can. And if my kids want a bowl of cereal and I'm out of milk, I drive from my heated garage to the store and buy a gallon.

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



I can. And I have never experienced the frustration and sorrow of having to say to my kids, "I can't."

This pantry is not like shopping at your local supermarket. The shelves are sometimes nearly bare, and what's there is largely government-issue food. There's rarely anything fresh, and the meat the woman received was a rare treat indeed.

The nun who works at the agency told me that one day the waiting room was nearly full, and she had to announce that all they had left were bags of beans and rice.

"Almost no one left," she said. "You know people are genuinely hungry when they'll wait an hour for a bag of beans and some rice."

People check in when they arrive. At least yearly, they provide identification for family members and proof of income.

They are allowed to shop only once a month, and then a "personal shopper" (me, for one) accompanies them and helps them choose so much canned fruit, so many proteins, so much dairy, based on their family size.

I think of Christ feeding the crowd who came to hear him. He blessed the fish and the bread, but he wasn't the one who brought it to the gathering. Someone else brought it forward and was willing to share.

What would Christ have done that day, I wonder, if no one had come forward?

This is going to be a hungry winter, and there's a food pantry in every town. Let's bring the food forward.

Letter to the Editor

Appeals for holiness

Thanks to Father Christopher Roux for so eloquently addressing the concerns so many of us have regarding the outcome of this year's election ("How to move forward now: Above all else, holiness is needed to affect change, end abortion," Nov. 7).

I ask God that your message for the need for holiness will be accepted and put into action in each of our lives so that our nation will, once again, support a culture of life for his most innocent and vulnerable little ones.

— Estelle Wisneski
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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No time to bury our heads in the sand

Prudence needed to overcome problems, difficult times

"When your monthly stock market statement comes, don't look at it!"

During the last few months, we have experienced the stock market tank, an enormous loss of jobs, businesses collapse and the general sinking of the economy. A natural human reaction is to look away from it.

To numb the fearful impact of disturbing events, some people take to drinking and others to their beds, hoping that when they are conscious again everything will be better.

Some even fall into utter despair and still others go so far as to take their lives because they feel there is nothing more to live for.

Where do we turn in order to counter this malaise?

At the same time economic woes have been bombarding us, several apropos Gospel passages offer the exact counsel we need to remain strong and hopeful.

Earlier in November, for example, one of the Mass readings was from Luke

14:25-33. Christ is speaking here of a king sitting down to weigh what he needs to do in light of a large army coming against him.

Two days later, the Gospel reading for the Mass that day was taken from the Luke 16:1-8. It presents Christ speaking of the steward who had squandered his master's property.

The steward is praised for sitting down and lowering the debts of the master's debtors: "And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently."

In both readings, Christ invites us to look into the minds of the two men and how they took stock of their situations. Their minds are not running from the problems. Rather, they are working feverishly to solve them.

They are anything but unconscious and in disarray.

A principal quality of prudence is clear-sightedness, which means not flinching in the face of difficult situations. Prudence encourages us to

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



utilize the best of our reflective powers in sorting out problems in order to make wise judgments.

Prudence also prompts us to take action, to avoid sitting around moping. It is the direct antithesis of aimlessness and succumbing to despair.

No doubt about it, we are in very difficult times! To make matters worse, the sinking economy is global, which adds to our fear of losing control over it.

Like St. Peter, who found himself sinking after walking on water, we too are experiencing that sinking feeling after having been buoyed up by the economy.

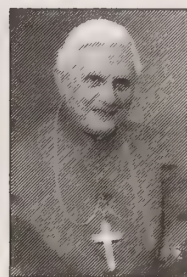
No better time exists today for taking to heart Christ's affirming words, "Fear not!"

We live at a crucial moment in history that is calling us to raise our thinking powers to new levels and to practice the strengthening virtues of hope and prudence we received in baptism and were reconfirmed in confirmation.

Real faith shows itself as love for others, pope says at audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If Christian faith is not translated into love and concrete help for the poor, it is not real faith, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Real faith becomes love and expresses itself in charity. A faith without charity, without this fruit, would not be true faith. It would be a dead faith," the pope said Nov. 26 at his weekly general audience.

The gathering was held in the Vatican audience hall on the first day solar panels installed on the roof began generating energy for the Vatican's power grid.

In his main talk, Pope Benedict continued a discussion he began the week before about St. Paul's teaching on how people are made just in the eyes of God and on the relationship between faith and good works.

St. Paul taught clearly that people can do nothing to make themselves just in the eyes of God, but rather that justification is God's gift to those who believe, the pope said.

"But this faith is not a thought, an opinion or an idea," he said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider his teaching on faith and works in the process of our justification.

Paul insists that we are justified by faith in Christ, and not by any merit of our own. Yet he also emphasizes the relationship between faith and those works which are the fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence and action within us.

The first gift of the Spirit is love — the love of the Father and the Son poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5:5).

Our sharing in the love of Christ leads us to live no longer for ourselves, but for him (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-15); it makes us a new creation (cf. 2 Cor 5:17) and members of his body, the church.

Faith thus works through love (cf. Gal 5:6). Consequently, there is no contradiction between what St. Paul teaches and what St. James teaches regarding the relationship between justifying faith and the fruit which it bears in good works.

Rather, there is a different emphasis. Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, we are called to glorify him in our bodies (cf. 1 Cor 6:20), offering ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice pleasing to God.

Justified by the gift of faith in Christ, we are called, as individuals and as a community, to treasure that gift and to let it bear rich fruit in the Spirit.

Supporting and challenging the president-elect

Catholics must forcefully weigh in on moral issues facing humanity

With the United States and the world in so much trouble, a lot is riding on President-elect Barack Obama.

And with inauguration day less than two months away, Obama's agenda is quickly solidifying. Before it is set in stone, millions of U.S. Catholics need to forcefully weigh in on the numerous moral issues facing humanity.

Many of Obama's positions reflect Catholic social doctrine and deserve our support.

For instance, his desire to provide affordable, comprehensive health care for the nation's uninsured — including almost nine million children — is in line with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

His plan to annually increase the minimum wage supports church teaching concerning each worker's right to fair compensation.

Obama's commitment to diplomacy in the Middle East, and to ending America's combat role in Iraq, is a major step in the direction of the Gospel's teaching on reconciliation and peace.

However, the president-elect needs to develop a similar diplomatic and exit strategy for Afghanistan. Sending additional troops there is a mistake. Instead, creative, peaceful ideas are needed.

Obama's goal to have Russian and American nuclear missiles removed from "hair trigger" alert, and to eventually eliminate all nuclear weapons,

powerfully reflects Catholic teaching. But his determination to rely on nuclear deterrence in the interim does not.

The president-elect's proposal of doubling foreign assistance to the world's poor is an improvement, but not as generous as it may sound.

According to the Christian anti-poverty organization Bread for the World, the United States in 2007 gave a total of \$14 billion for poverty-focused development assistance — which is only 0.5 percent of our federal budget.

Pope John Paul II warned America not to be content to give just the crumbs from our feast to the poor.

According to the World Bank, 1.4 billion human beings live in extreme poverty — struggling to survive on less than \$1.25 a day. Even during these difficult economic times, we can allocate much more than a 0.5 percent budgetary increase to help our suffering brothers and sister.

Christ expects better from us!

We need to challenge ourselves and President-elect Obama to share far more of our wealth with the world's poor.

Very troubling is Obama's strong pro-abortion stance.

He hopes to sign into law the Freedom of Choice Act. If passed by Congress, this legislation would cancel even modest abortion restraints like parental notification laws.

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



It would forbid banning partial-birth abortions and would even deny legal protection for an infant born alive after a failed abortion!

During their recent meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. Catholic bishops unanimously agreed to mobilize the resources of the Catholic community to prevent the passage of the Freedom of Choice Act.

One easy step we can take immediately is to call President-elect Obama (202-540-3000 and press 2) or, preferably, contact him at www.change.gov and go to "American Moment" at the top of the page.

Click "Share Your Vision." In the comment section please explain why you object to Obama's support of abortion and the Freedom of Choice Act. Urge him to agree to dialogue with the pro-life community.

Also request that he pursue diplomacy in Afghanistan and abandon his intentions to deepen our military involvement there. And ask him to triple poverty-focused assistance to the world's poor in 2009.

Now is the best time to help President-elect Obama understand the moral concerns of America's Catholic community!



CNS PHOTO BY JORGE ADORNO, REUTERS

A Paraguayan girl eats a piece of bread Nov. 21 on the sidewalk where she lives with her family in Asuncion. A study released Nov. 25 calls on the new Congress and President-elect Barack Obama's administration to continue overseas aid that is needed to keep world's poor from falling further behind economically.

WANT MORE INFO?

The full Bread for the World report can be seen at www.hungerreport.org.

To help the hungry

Study: Overseas aid needed to keep poor from falling further behind

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Officials from a variety of nongovernmental organizations have urged the United States to continue overseas development assistance despite the current global financial crisis.

One official at a Nov. 24 press conference in Washington said relieving hunger in poor nations could be seen as a national security issue.

At the press conference, marking the release of the 19th annual hunger report by Bread for the World, speakers noted that 100 million more people went hungry earlier this year because of fuel and food price spikes, coupled with the growing of crops for fuel rather than for food — and an additional 100 million have gone hungry since the financial crisis started in September.

"Investing in food production in Africa is a security issue," declared Peter McPherson, a former U.S. Agency for International Development director, during the press conference. "Food production, in my mind, is a security issue."

"We started sensing that something was seriously wrong" a little over a year ago, said Ken Hackett, head of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

One sign was when sisters who were Missionaries of Charity would come to CRS outposts. "When the Missionaries of Charity come to your door, they don't leave," Hackett said during the press conference. Their presence was an indication that "the poorest of the poor could no longer feed themselves."

Another sign came during his visit to CRS workers in Haiti.

"When you stand up before 200 of your workers in Haiti, and you give your speech and you thank them for all the good work that they're doing, and the first hand that goes up says, 'When are we going to get a salary adjustment?' you know something's wrong," Hackett said.

"It's even affecting our own people on the ground," he said.

Concern for the poor and the vulnerable "must be at the foundation of any assistance," he added. Overseas development assistance, as currently constituted, "is not responsive in any way to the needs of the poor."

A chart distributed at the press conference showed 50 foreign assistance objectives, 51 U.S. governmental foreign assistance organizations — Cabinet departments among them — and 48 presidential initiatives, pieces of legislation and strategy papers.

McPherson called for an overhaul of the bureaucracy; the Obama transition team has been approached with the idea of a Cabinet-level Department of Global Assistance. "There's nothing like money to dictate where the control is," McPherson said.

Foreign assistance "is not addressing the root causes of poverty," Hackett said. It must integrate food aid and development aid, and "it's imperative that the United States supply, even in tough times, adequate assistance."

The U.S. role in development aid has slipped over the past 20 years "because we're now into immediate emergency relief," McPherson said.

Joy Phumaphi, the World Bank's vice president for human development, said the World Bank was prepared to give \$6 billion in farm aid to developing countries, but added that the figure was 10 percent of what was needed worldwide.

Rekha Mehra, economic development director for the International Center for Research on Women, said that "860 million people are going to bed hungry every night." She said women in sub-Saharan Africa produce 60 percent of the region's food, but that only 6 percent of overseas development aid went to women in agriculture.

In October Mehra co-wrote a paper titled "Women Help Solve Hunger. Why Is the World Still Waiting?" In it she said: "Women's education has the greatest effect on reducing child malnutrition, accounting for 43 percent of the reduction in malnutrition in the developing world from 1970-1995."

The executive summary of the Bread for the World hunger report showed the inequality of aid and trade.

"In 2006, Bangladesh received \$80 million in U.S. assistance, while the United States collected \$487 million in tariffs on imports from Bangladesh," it said. "The United States has been working to increase the competitiveness of Bangladeshi businesses, yet U.S. tariffs make exports from Bangladesh less competitive."

Catholic co-sponsors of the Bread for the World hunger report included the Bon Secours Health System; Catholic Charities USA; the Catholic Health Association; SC Ministry Foundation, which is an agency of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Calif.

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VOLUME 18 No 6

Perspectives

Getting the most out of
Mass; lives in the balance;
benefits of confession

| PAGES 14-15

To watch and follow the Lord

*Pope begins Advent
by asking Christians
to be signs of hope*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In their prayers and through their actions in Advent, Christians are called to be signs of hope for a world marked by holiness and justice, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, when the whole church is called to become hope for itself and for the world," the pope said Nov. 29 as he celebrated vespers on the eve of the first Sunday of Advent.

See ADVENT, page 6

'A man of faith'

*Vatican official says
Galileo had 'deep
religious convictions'*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Fourteen years after Pope John Paul II said the Catholic Church erred when it condemned the 17th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei, the Vatican secretary of state said the astronomer was "a man of faith" who recognized God as creator of the cosmos.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone,

See GALILEO, page 7

An eternal resting place



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville Dec. 2. Also pictured are (from left) Msgr. Richard Bellow, Father Patrick Hoare and Deacon Robert Murphy.

Huntersville cemetery opens Catholic section

**SECOND OF ITS KIND IN
DIOCESE; ADDS OPTION FOR
TRADITIONAL BURIALS**

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — Catholic sections in independently-owned cemeteries have become a recent trend in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed a Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville Dec. 2.

Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville; Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar; deacons; and parishioners gathered for the event.

"It is meeting the needs of

See CEMETERY, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY ADINAN ABIDI, REUTERS

Students from different countries hold candles during a peace march in New Delhi Nov. 30. Hundreds of students from 25 nations participated in the march in memory of the victims of the Mumbai attacks, in which nearly 200 people died and hundreds were injured.

To triumph over terror

*Pope condemns terrorist attacks in
India, prays for victims of violence*

**PAPAL TELEGRAM APPEALS
FOR AN END TO 'ALL ACTS
OF TERRORISM'**

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI condemned the wave of terrorist attacks in India as acts of "cruel and senseless violence," and led prayers for the more than 170 people who died and the hundreds injured in the bloodshed.

A Vatican spokesman, meanwhile, warned that if extremists continue to exploit the ethnic and religious tensions of southern Asia the results could be even more tragic.

Speaking at his noon blessing Nov. 30, the pope asked for prayers for the victims of the attacks in Mumbai, the Indian financial capital, where

See MUMBAI, page 7

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Culture Watch

#* *Book on Marian apparitions;
CD based on pope's poetry*

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In Our Schools

*Sister parish update; prayer
events in school*

| PAGES 12-13

Two-way street

*Archbishop asks for tolerance
in same-sex debate*

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

PRIESTLY PEACE



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Jesuit Father John Dear listens to a question during an interview at Emory University in Atlanta Nov. 20. The long-time peace activist was in Atlanta to promote his new book, "A Persistent Peace." Father Dear was recently nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize.

Jesuit priest says his life is a journey toward the 'God of peace'

ATLANTA (CNS) — As a young Jesuit, Father John Dear chose to add his own vow of nonviolence to his order's required vows of obedience, poverty and chastity.

The vows still guide his life more than 25 years later, but after the initial thrill of making his public commitment to them he learned the hard work had only just begun.

"The vows are the beginning of the journey," he said. "I didn't know that. I thought it was the end. I have to keep experimenting."

A life of "peace, love and nonviolence is a journey. There is no reaching perfection," he said during a Nov. 19 lecture at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta.

His appearance was part of a nationwide book tour for his autobiography, "A Persistent Peace: One Man's Struggle for a Nonviolent World," which has sold 14,000 copies since it was published in August.

Father Dear, recently nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize, said people need "to see life as a journey, every day mindfully, one step at a time, living and breathing in the Holy Spirit of peace and walking the road to a new future of peace and the God of peace."

The priest described people in the peace movement as the "new abolitionists," imitating people who held firm to their beliefs as they opposed slavery. Even though they were told slavery is in the Bible and that it had always been around for generations, they persisted in fighting for change.

"They were faithful to the journey.

They never gave up," he said.

Father Dear, 49, knows what that is like. He has been involved in war protests, organized chaplains in New York after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and sat in sackcloth and ashes in the biblical tradition of repentance to protest nuclear bombs.

He has visited war zones throughout the world, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, the Middle East, the Philippines, Northern Ireland and Iraq.

"War is not the will of God. War is not blessed. War is never justified," the priest said.

He told the Atlanta audience that a spiritual pilgrimage he made to the Holy Land in 1982 changed his life. The priest arrived just as war erupted between Lebanon and Israel and he witnessed fighter planes flying over the Sea of Galilee to drop bombs.

"I made my decision that I was going to spend my life trying to practice and teach the Sermon on the Mount," he said.

The priest told the church audience that his life continues to be a "journey toward peace."

"After all these years of working, the journey to peace is still the most important thing, greater than any one event or success," he added.

"Nonviolence involves active derring-do, confronting the opponent nonviolently," he said. "Peace is not just a tactic or a strategy. It's a whole new way of life."

"Jesus didn't say, 'Blessed are those who like peace.' He said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers,'" Father Dear said.

Catholic Charities USA warns against fraudulent e-mails on Internet

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA officials have demanded that groups using the Catholic Charities name to solicit funds on the Internet discontinue using the trademark and urged potential donors to research the authenticity of an organization before making a contribution.

"Fraudulent e-mails that are misappropriating the name of Catholic Charities USA and its affiliates are being sent to extract money and/or personal information from unsuspecting recipients and are circulating on the Internet," Brandon Pinney, Catholic Charities USA spokesman, said Dec. 1.

The e-mails are labeled with the subject titles "Grant Notification," "The Catholic Charity," "The Catholic Charity Foundation" and "From the Office of the Cash Grant Program."

The name "Catholic Charities" was used within the body of some of the e-mails.

The messages — which come

from several different e-mail addresses and provide a variety of contact names — ask recipients for detailed personal information.

In an effort to stop the e-mails, Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president, replied Nov. 26 to each of the addresses brought to the organization's attention, insisting the sender stop disseminating such confusing messages or suffer consequences.

He said he wishes to settle the matter in an amicable way and asked for a reply within seven days to confirm they have halted such e-mails.

As of Dec. 1, Catholic Charities did get one automated response from one e-mail, but had not received a reply stating the practice would be discontinued.

Catholic Charities USA is "fully prepared to pursue legal action if the transmission of these fraudulent e-mails does not cease immediately," Pinney said.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate a *SPRED (Special Religious Development) Advent Mass* on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 12:30 p.m. The purpose of this Mass is to acknowledge the importance of those with physical and developmental disabilities as members of the Body of Christ. The SPRED Program furthers the spiritual development and inclusion of persons of all ages with developmental disabilities through small faith groups. All persons with disabilities and their caregivers are cordially invited to attend the Mass and the reception that follows in the St. Matthew Church Banquet Room. For more information, contact Jan Clemens, parish SPRED coordinator, at (704) 246-7102.

CHARLOTTE — In response to an urgent need for winter coats by the Men's Uptown Shelter in Charlotte, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be holding a *Winter Coat Drive* Dec. 1-7. Consider donating coats you no longer use. For more information, call Grace Narus

at (704) 543-1237.

CHARLOTTE — An *Advent prayer service and exposition* will take place Dec. 9 and 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Join the parish family for evening prayer and to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There also will be a brief reflection on an Advent theme. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

CHARLOTTE — A bilingual Christmas program, "*Las Posadas*," will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A long-standing Mexican tradition, *Las Posadas* is a re-enactment of the days of preparation and journey to Bethlehem that Joseph and Mary underwent before the birth of Jesus. Come for an evening filled with prayer, beautiful scenes, wonderful music and the spirit of Christmas. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting a *Family Advent Retreat* on Dec. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This retreat is a joint effort of the music ministry and faith formation. There will be prayer, readings and a musical performed by the children's choir. For more info call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

HUNTERSVILLE — The 7th annual Christmas Pageant, "*The Gift of Aloha*," will be held at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Dec. 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This is an evening for the entire family full of song, dance and pageantry as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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DECEMBER 5, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 6

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Without ethics, financial crisis could be a catastrophe, nuncio warns

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A leading Vatican diplomat warned that the current financial crisis could become a catastrophe unless solutions are found that respect ethics and involve all levels of society.

"It is necessary to recover some basic aspects of finances, such as the primacy of labor over capital, of human relationships over purely financial transactions, and of ethics over the sole criterion of efficiency," Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, said Nov. 28. "For some time we've found ourselves in the middle of a financial crisis that could become a catastrophe if its effects are allowed to impact other crises: in economics, food and energy."

Archbishop Migliore made the remarks on the eve of the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Financing for Development Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in Doha, Qatar. The archbishop led a

Vatican delegation to the conference.

He said the Vatican had been involved in planning for the conference, focusing on specific issues such as foreign debt, the mobilization of countries' internal resources, and the need to avoid forms of "economic neo-colonialism."

Archbishop Migliore echoed the Vatican's recent insistence that poor countries have a voice in responding to the financial crisis. He said a multilateral consensus on global economic issues cannot be "subordinated to the decisions of a few."

Archbishop Migliore said the current crisis calls for respect for ethical and legal norms. "Regulations and ethical codes existed well before the crisis. The problem is that great impunity was given to those who didn't respect them," he said.

He said it's also a question of leadership by moral and civil authorities at all levels, who have the duty to respect their citizens.

Witt at (704) 846-7361.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start an eight-week program on Deuteronomy beginning Jan. 6. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — *Eucharistic adoration* will be held each Tuesday during Advent from 5 to 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. There will be no planned program, just quiet time for personal prayer and adoration. For more information, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A service of *Advent Lessons and Carols* will be presented Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. The program will include musical pieces performed by the Chancel Adult Choir, the Children's Choir and guest soloists. The music will be enhanced by scriptural readings highlighting Advent and Christmas. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Rosemary Hyman at (704) 664-3992, ext 315.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 9
25th anniversary of episcopal ordination of Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory
Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, Ga.

Dec. 19 (6 p.m.)
Christmas party for deacons and wives
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Dec. 13 (11 a.m.)
Rite of lector for deacon aspirants
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 20 (10 a.m.)
Christmas party for religious sisters
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Vatican makes clear its opposition to U.N. homosexuality declaration

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has made clear its opposition to the United Nations endorsing a universal declaration to decriminalize homosexuality.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, and Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said unjust forms of discrimination against homosexuals must be avoided.

However, the Vatican does not approve of a formal declaration with political weight that might be used to put pressure on or discriminate against countries that do not recognize same-sex marriage, they said.

A draft declaration, drawn up by France and endorsed by the European Union, was to be presented to the U.N. General Assembly Dec. 10. It condemns discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Archbishop Migliore said Dec. 1 that adding these "new categories (to be) protected from discrimination" would create in turn "new and inflexible (forms of) discrimination." For example, he said, "states that do not recognize same-sex unions as 'marriage' will be pilloried

and put under pressure" to do so.

Almost 80 countries have laws prohibiting homosexual activity and several nations include the death penalty as a form of punishment for such activity. The church supports fundamental human rights and opposes every form of "unjust discrimination" that includes "not just the death penalty, but all violent or discriminatory criminal laws against homosexuals," Father Lombardi said.

Father Lombardi said the problem with the draft proposal is that it does not just ask for the decriminalization of homosexuality, and it also includes a declaration that might put pressure on or discriminate against communities that uphold marriage as only being between a man and a woman.

Under such a declaration, nations or communities that "do not put every sexual orientation on exactly the same level can be considered contrary to the respect of human rights," he said.

It is no wonder then, he said, that fewer than 50 U.N. member states have endorsed the draft declaration and more than 150 have not signed on.

"The Vatican is not alone" in its opposition to the proposal, he said.

Bringing Christmas (from North Carolina)



CNS PHOTO BY JONATHAN ERNST, REUTERS

The national Christmas tree arrives on a horse-drawn carriage at the White House in Washington, D.C., Nov. 30. A Fraser fir from North Carolina, it will be on display in the Blue Room during the holiday season.

Vatican confirms tentative plans for papal visit to Holy Land in 2009

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has confirmed tentative plans for Pope Benedict XVI to visit the Holy Land in 2009. Israeli sources said the most likely time for the visit would be in May, with stops in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The pope was invited to visit Israel by Israeli President Shimon Peres in 2007. At that time, the pope made it clear he hoped to make the trip, but Vatican diplomats said the timing would depend in large part on efforts to calm the simmering Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In recent months, Israeli and Vatican officials began making more concrete plans for a papal visit.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, confirmed that "diplomatic contacts are under way to study the possibility of a papal trip to the Holy Land during the course of next year." He gave no dates or details.

Father Lombardi declined to speculate on whether the papal visit would include a stop at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. The Vatican has urged officials to remove from a permanent display a photo caption stating that Pope Pius XII did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their slaughter of the Jews.

Pope Benedict has another scheduled foreign trip on his calendar for 2009, a visit to Cameroon and Angola in March.

A heart for caring

Holy Angels employee receives national award

BELMONT — An employee of Holy Angels in Belmont is the winner of a national health care award.

Fannie Rendleman, a Holy Angels health care technician, is a 2008 recipient of the Irwin Siegel Agency's Direct Support Professionals Recognition Award.

The award, given annually to three winners, is presented to direct support professionals who demonstrate excellence, creativity and commitment to assisting and enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Award winners receive \$500, a commemorative certificate and mention in various state and national ads and other resources throughout 2009.

Rendleman has worked at Holy Angels for 24 years, during which time she also has been a recipient of the Holy Angels president's Award for Excellence and the North Carolina Association of Residential Resources Dr. Ann F. Wolfe Award.

Holy Angels was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy. The nonprofit corporation provides residential services and programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

At Holy Angels, Rendleman's primary responsibility is the nursing care of residents, including medication administration, providing nutrition



Fannie Rendleman

"To make direct support a career, a person must simply have the heart for it."

— Fannie Rendleman

and bathing and administering medical treatments as prescribed by a physician.

"Fannie Rendleman is compassionate, gentle and personal. She brings a personal touch to all aspects of her work and lives the 'golden rule' of treating others as she would be treated," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels president and CEO.

"To make direct support a career, a person must simply have the heart for it," said Rendleman. "If there is no heart for it, you will not last."

"This is the most rewarding job a person can have," she added.

U.S. bishops' pro-life official, other pro-life leaders honored

NATICK, Mass. (CNS) — Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities in Washington, D.C., was named one of six winners of the inaugural Life Prizes awarded by the Gerard Health Foundation in Natick, Mass.

The awards recognize "individuals or groups that have made unsurpassed strides in preserving and upholding the sanctity of human life," according to an announcement on the prizes.

Doerflinger, who is a bioethics expert, said he was grateful for the award and "humbled to be considered among the pro-life champions in the movement."

"We need more intelligent young people to enter the fray at the intersection of legislation, medicine and technology to protect human life at every stage, and I am confident that Life Prizes will be a major factor in inspiring future work," he said in a statement.

The other winners are:

— The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

— Margaret "Peggy" Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International, a worldwide network of more than 1,000 pregnancy resource centers.

— Jill Stanek, the nurse who first drew attention to the late second-trimester abortions being performed at a Chicago-area facility, Christ Hospital. She uses her blog to report about late-term abortion.

— Lila Rose, a student journalist



Richard Doerflinger

who is founder of a student pro-life organization called Live Action. She is president of its chapter at the University of California-Los Angeles.

— Kay Coles James, a leading pro-life advocate for the last 30 years and founder and president of the Gloucester Institute, an outreach and education initiative for young African-Americans.

The awards are scheduled to be presented at a ceremony in Washington Jan. 23, 2009. The winners will share \$600,000 in prize money.

"The accomplishments of these pro-life heroes are diverse, valiant and nothing short of inspiring," said Raymond Ruddy, president of the Gerard Health Foundation.

"They are the movement's most successful champions of life and their achievements will inspire future pro-life generations to be bold and brilliant in undertaking the many challenges that lie ahead in spreading a culture of life," he added.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Holy Angels, visit www.holyangelsnc.org or call (704) 825-4161.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Bishop Jugis blesses Catholic section of cemetery

CEMETERY, from page 1

the people who have been asking for it," said Msgr. Bellow.

The opening of the Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens is a collaborative effort between the cemetery and St. Mark Church.

It is the second Catholic section to be opened at an independently-owned cemetery in the diocese in the last four months. The Garden of St. Matthew at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Matthews opened Aug. 12.

Plans are currently in the works for the opening of a Catholic section at Sharon Memorial Park and Crematory in Charlotte early next year.

In 2006, the Diocese of Charlotte implemented a moratorium on constructing and expanding columbaria and conducted a study on the use of columbaria and cemeteries.

"The Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens is a pastorally sensitive approach, offering equal access at one location to all our Catholic parishioners who desire a resting place for either the body or for cremated remains," said Bishop Jugis.

"It fulfills the requirements of our policy on cemeteries adopted in 2007,



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, accompanied by Father Patrick Hoare, Deacon Robert Murphy and Joyce Procetto, walks through the new Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville Dec. 2.

which requires that a resting place for the bodies of the deceased and a resting place for cremated remains be available all at one location," he said.

"There has been a lot of desire for Catholic cemeteries among Catholics coming into this diocese," said Msgr. Bellow.

The development of the Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens

is meant to fulfill that desire, not only for parishioners of St. Mark Church and Catholics in the Huntersville area, but for any Catholic who wishes to be buried there, he said.

The cemetery was established in 1985 as Mecklenburg Memorial Park. New owners took over in 1995 and in 2005 the name was changed to Northlake Memorial Gardens. The cemetery consists of 30 acres of land, 10 of which are now in use.

The Catholic section will consist of two gardens — The Garden of the Holy Rosary and The Garden of All Saints — and an area for columbaria. The Garden of the Holy Rosary will have space for approximately 900 flat bronze memorials and The Garden of All Saints will have room for approximately 600 upright monuments. Columbaria will be built in phases as needed. The first one will contain 48 spaces.

"We have been hearing for a number of years that Catholic families would like a Catholic section," said Dana Elder, owner of Northlake Memorial Gardens.

"We're thankful that we have the opportunity to fill the need," he said.

Rodger Porubsky, a parishioner of St. Mark Church, has already purchased burial plots for himself, his wife and their son.

"We weren't looking for a plot at this particular time," said Porubsky, but when he heard about the Catholic section, he thought now is "as good a time as any."

"Now is the time to plan," he said.

Father Hoare attributes the appeal of Catholic cemeteries to a sense of community.

"There is a sense of comfort," he said. "The community of faith begins in this life and continues in eternal life."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

BURIAL or CREMATION?

The Order of Christian Funerals, the Vatican-approved rite used for celebrating Catholic funerals, indicates three reasons for the preference of burial of the body of the deceased over the cremation of the body:

— Jesus himself willed to be buried;

— the body at the funeral rite expresses in a natural way the manner people had been accustomed to relating to the person while he or she was living, namely through a human body;

— the body at the funeral rite expresses Jesus' teaching regarding the supernatural dignity and destiny of the human body.

The Order of Christian Funerals presents cremation as an exception to burial and allows Catholics to be cremated "when extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice."

In March 2007, the Diocese of Charlotte issued its new policy on cemeteries and columbaria, which states parishes may offer at one location a resting place for both the bodies and the cremated remains of the deceased.

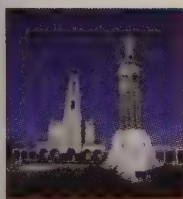
The policy gives the diocese the option to create Catholic sections in local cemeteries and to receive or purchase land for the establishment of a Catholic cemetery.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Patrick Hoare listen during the intercessory prayers at the blessing of the new Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville Dec. 2.

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For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 — or e-mail ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE PHOTOS?

More photos of the cemetery blessing are available on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html.

Holy smoke



COURTESY PHOTO

Smoke is visible as fourth-grader Joshua Helton and eighth-grader Daniel Nellie light the first candles of each class' Advent wreath during a school-wide Advent celebration at St. Michael School in Gastonia Dec. 2. Students and staff gathered in the cafeteria for the celebration, which included a Bible reading, prayer and song. Principal Joseph Puceta explained the meaning of Advent, the season that opens the church's liturgical year, which begins with the liturgical observance of the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends when the liturgical observance of Christmas begins.

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreens with four candles — three purple and one pink — which represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent for the birth of Christ. Each week a new candle is lit and prayers are said.

Pope begins Advent by asking Christians to be signs of hope

ADVENT, from page 1

The pope's homily at the evening prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica, the morning Mass he celebrated Nov. 30 at Rome's Basilica of St. Lawrence Outside the Walls and his midday Angelus address at the Vatican afterward all focused on Advent as a time to remember that Christ became human, died for our sins, rose from the dead and will return at the end of time.

Advent hope, he said during the evening prayer service, is a recognition of the ongoing need for salvation.

"We do not await the Lord as some beautiful decoration for a world already saved," he said, but as the only one who can bring to completion the work begun with his incarnation, death and resurrection.

In his Angelus address, the pope said

Advent is a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ by making sure they welcome him fully into their hearts and lives.

But, he said, it also is a time for Christians to set their sights on the end of time and to reform their lives in a way that shows they are ready for the Last Judgment.

"This requires a correct detachment from earthly goods, sincere repentance for one's errors, concrete acts of charity and, especially, humbly and trustingly placing oneself in the hands of God, our tender and merciful father," the pope said.

Visiting the parish community at the Basilica of St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, the pope said the Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent urges believers to be watchful and stay awake.

"To watch means to follow the Lord, to choose that which he has chosen, to love that which he loves, to conform one's life to his," the pope said.

Raising hope for Christmas



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Patti Eiffe and members of her fourth-grade class at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem prepare for their annual class bake sale Nov. 20.

The bake sale raised \$535, which the students then used on a class shopping field trip to purchase clothes and toys for Christmas outreach clients of Catholic Social Services' Piedmont Triad Regional Office in Winston-Salem.

In addition to helping others, the class used the experience as a lesson in mathematics — counting money, making change and using the profits to shop for needed items.



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IN THE NEWS

Vatican official says Galileo had 'deep religious convictions'

GALILEO, from page 1

the secretary of state, spoke briefly Nov. 26 at the opening of a Rome conference titled, "Science 400 years after Galileo Galilei," designed to bring scientists, ethicists and other experts together to discuss the role of ethics in scientific research.

The cardinal said recent studies and the Vatican's own review of the Inquisition trial of Galileo "have shed light on the shortcomings of churchmen tied to the mentality of their age," but also gave people a more accurate understanding of Galileo's beliefs.

"Galileo, a man of science, also cultivated with love his faith and his deep religious convictions," Cardinal Bertone said, repeating Pope Benedict XVI's statement that "Galileo Galilei was a man of faith who saw nature as a book written by God."

In 1992, Pope John Paul said the church had erred in condemning Galileo for asserting that the Earth revolved around the sun.

After being found guilty of "vehement suspicion of heresy" by the Roman Inquisition at the age of 69, Galileo spent his remaining eight years under house arrest.

The United Nations has proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Astronomy to mark the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to

Galileo Galilei

Born in Pisa in 1564, Galileo was one of the most important mathematicians, physicists, astronomers and inventors of his era.

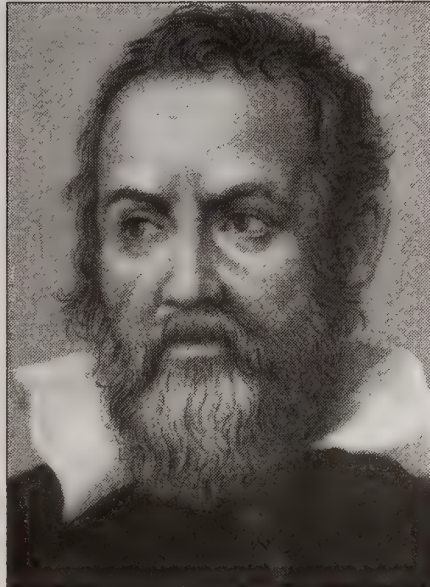
Through his telescopic observations he discovered sunspots, the moon's pocked and mountainous surface and Jupiter's satellites.

He also provided evidence for Copernicus' view that Earth revolved around the sun. At the time, the generally held theological view was based on several Old Testament verses and attested the sun revolved around a stationary Earth.

This view of the Earth-sun relationship was considered an essential part of the overall belief that humans, as redeemed by Christ, are the center of the universe.

Galileo argued his controversial heliocentric view did not oppose faith.

He believed the Bible was not meant to give scientific explanations of nature; in a letter he once paraphrased a famous remark by Italian Cardinal Caesar Baronius saying sacred Scripture does not reveal what is in the heavens, but rather how to get to heaven.



CNS PHOTO FROM BETTMANN ARCHIVE

Galileo Galilei is depicted in this illustration. The Vatican secretary of state recently said the 17th-century astronomer was "a man of faith" who recognized God as creator of the cosmos.

observe the cosmos.

In addition to publishing the text of Cardinal Bertone's remarks Nov. 26, the Vatican newspaper ran an article titled "Thank you, Galileo" on its front page.

Written by Jesuit Father Jose Funes, director of the Vatican Observatory, the article expressed several hopes for the Galileo anniversary year: that it would encourage people to consider seriously the relationship between faith and science; lead scientists to recognize the role faith played in Galileo's life; and lead theologians to recognize the contributions Galileo made to the church's attitude toward science.

"I think the Galileo case will never be closed in a way satisfactory to everyone," Father Funes wrote in *L'Osservatore Romano*.

"The dramatic clash of some churchmen with Galileo has left wounds that are still open," he said.

Still, he said, when errors and misunderstandings are confronted, they can lead to clarification and a deeper level of understanding.

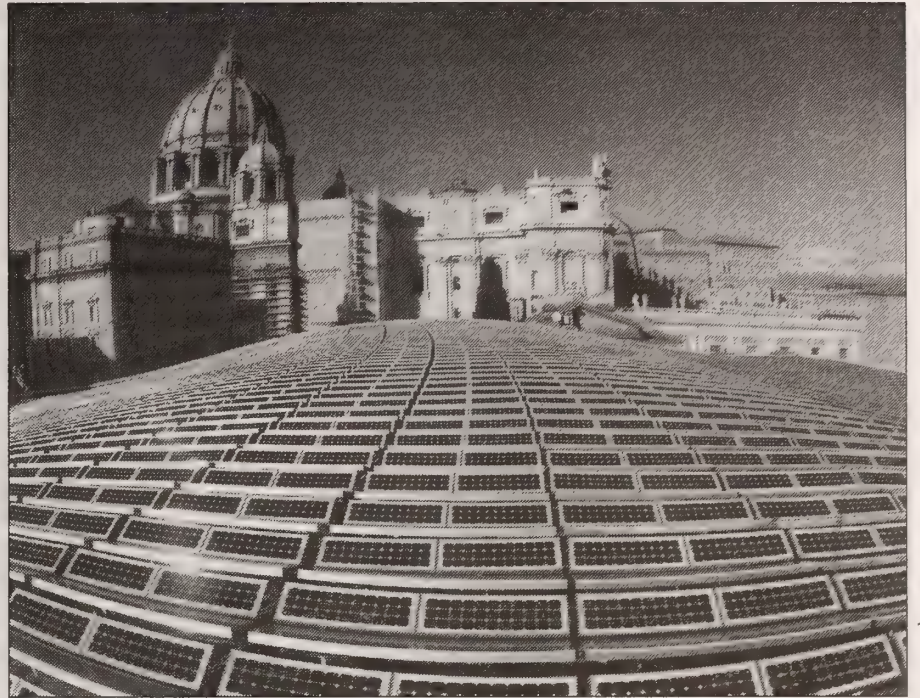
"In that sense, I hope that what was — and perhaps still is — an area of conflict can become the ground for an encounter and dialogue," Father Funes wrote.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, told reporters Nov. 25 that he hoped to find a scholarly institution willing to publish a critical edition of all of the documentation related to Galileo's trial.

Although he was placed under house arrest, "Galileo was never condemned" officially, the archbishop said.

"The pope did not sign the condemnation because the cardinals could not agree," he said.

Channeling the sun



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Above: Solar panels are seen from the roof of the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican Nov. 26. The Vatican has installed its first solar-generated electrical system and committed itself to renewable energy for 20 percent of its needs by 2020, a target set for all the European Union. Below: Workers install solar panels on the roof of the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican in October.

Vatican wins award for creating rooftop solar-power generator

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican won the 2008 Euro Solar Prize for turning the football field-sized roof of its Paul VI audience hall into a giant solar-power generator.

A European association promoting renewable energy presented the award to Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, president of the commission governing Vatican territory, during the inauguration of the new roof Nov. 26.

Cardinal Lajolo said he would make sure the award, a small silver and glass globe, would go to Pope Benedict XVI, who repeatedly has called on humanity to show greater care for creation.

The association's president, Hermann Scheer, said he hoped more governments, businesses and individuals would be inspired by the Vatican's efforts and thereby promote and support renewable energy, too.

A German company, SolarWorld, donated and installed 2,400 solar panels on the top of the Vatican's audience hall after Vatican officials had made public their plans to convert the rooftop into a solar-power generator.

The gift is estimated to be worth about \$1.55 million dollars.

Scheer said the only way to inspire more people to tap into solar power was for a well-respected, "worldwide institution, indeed, the Catholic Church with its global importance," to set the stage and show it could be done.

He said he hopes the Vatican's new solar-panel roof, which will produce some 300,000 kilowatt-hours of power each year, will help "overcome the mental block many people have toward new sources of energy."

The solar panels began generation energy for the Vatican's power grid Nov. 26 during the pope's weekly



CNS PHOTO BY EMANUELA DE MEDO, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

general audience.

A large electronic tally board hangs in the hall to keep count of how many kilowatt hours are being produced and how much oil and carbon dioxide is being saved by using solar energy.

After just a few hours on a partly sunny Nov. 26, 60 kilowatt-hours had been generated and 88 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, or CO₂, were avoided.

Pier Carlo Cusianna, director of technical services for Vatican City, told reporters another solar-panel system was being installed above the Vatican's employee cafeteria to help provide power for heating and cooling the building.

Another project still in the planning stages, he told reporters at the inauguration, is to set up 1.2 acres of solar panels at Vatican Radio's Santa Maria di Galeria transmission center in the countryside outside Rome.

He said they already have a list of potential donors for supplying the solar panels for this and other future projects.

The Vatican has said its aim is to use renewable energy sources for 20 percent of its energy needs by 2020, the target date set by the European Union for its members.

APPEALS FOR PEACE

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE



CNS PHOTO BY AKINTUNDE AKINLEYE, REUTERS

Nigerians displaced by violence seek refuge at a displacement center in Jos, Nigeria, Nov. 30. Rival ethnic and religious mobs burned homes, shops, mosques and churches in Jos during fighting triggered by a disputed local election. At least 200 were killed.

Nigerian violence mainly political, not religious, archbishop says

Despite sporadic violence, Christian-Muslim relations good, he says

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The outbreak of violence that left at least 200 people dead in central Nigeria was primarily political, not religious, a Nigerian archbishop said.

Nigerian troops were sent to patrol the city of Jos in late November after roving mobs rioted, burned churches and mosques, and attacked people with gunfire and machetes.

It was feared that the final death toll would be much higher.

Pope Benedict XVI condemned the violence and prayed for the victims at his Sunday blessing Nov. 30.

Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, Nigeria, told Vatican Radio the same day that, although news reports have spoken of a clash between Christian and Muslim gangs, the reality is much more complex.

"It is a political problem. Politicians in Nigeria, however, when it suits them, try to exploit religion in support of their ways of doing things," said the archbishop, who was in Rome for church meetings.

In this case, he said, the likely trigger was an electoral conflict between Nigeria's two main parties, the All Nigerian Peoples Party, which is perceived as predominantly Muslim, and the Christian-backed People's Democratic Party.

Although the political parties are not strictly religious, "local political conflicts at times reflect the religious element of their membership, Archbishop Onaiyekan said.

That is particularly true in Jos, which lies between the predominantly Muslim north of Nigeria and the country's

predominantly Christian south.

"When there are political problems, ethnic and social differences are mixed together and then the religious difference is added along the same lines," he said.

"It is difficult to identify an exact cause. But I think the primary cause is the control of power and the sense of belonging to one group or the other — who holds control, what are the economic consequences, and so on," he said.

He said that while sporadic violence grabs headlines, Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria are generally good.

"Quite often the impression is given that in Nigeria people are always killing each other, which is not at all true," he said.

For the most part, he said, Nigerian Christians and Muslims live and work side by side without problems.

Archbishop Onaiyekan is co-president of Nigeria's national interreligious dialogue council. After the recent violence, he said, he spoke with the Muslim co-president of the council to discuss what could be done to calm the situation in Jos.

In a statement issued Nov. 30, he called on the government to conduct a thorough investigation of the violence and to "fish out the real and often faceless planners, promoters and sponsors of these incidents and hold them accountable, no matter who they may be."

He also warned "law-abiding Nigerians" against taking "alternative measures for self-defense if they ever feel that they can no longer trust the state to protect them."

"This must never be allowed to happen," he said.

Bishop urges Obama to secure Israeli-Palestinian peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace has joined other American Christian leaders in calling on President-elect Barack Obama to make lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace a priority during his first year in office.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., is among 40 signers of a Dec. 1 letter developed by Churches for Middle East Peace and sent to Obama's transition team.

The letter urges Obama's incoming administration to "provide sustained, high-level diplomatic leadership toward the clear goal" of establishing a viable Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

In a statement, Bishop Hubbard said the continuing conflict between Palestinians and Israelis undermines "the social, economic and spiritual fabric of the lives of all persons in the region, including Christians who have lived in the Holy Land since the earliest days of our faith."

"With majorities of both Israelis and Palestinians supporting a durable peace,

it is incumbent on their political leaders and our own to do everything possible to help bring about a just peace," Bishop Hubbard said.

The letter said delaying the implementation of a peace accord between Israelis and Palestinians would place additional burdens on the lives of the dwindling Christian community in the region. The religious leaders also said peace would boost U.S. security while leading to improved stability and relationships throughout the Middle East.

"We believe that Jerusalem — home to two peoples and three religions — has the potential to become a powerful symbol of hope and coexistence for people across the region and the world," the letter said.

Signers included Redemptorist Father Thomas Picton, president, Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Franciscan Sister J. Lora Dambroski, president, Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Ken Hackett, president, Catholic Relief Services; and Archbishop Cyril Aphrem Karim, Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church for the Eastern United States.

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A member of the Jewish community prays in a synagogue for those killed by armed militants in Nariman House in Mumbai, India, Dec. 1. Pope Benedict XVI condemned the wave of terrorist attacks in India and led prayers for the nearly 200 people who died and the hundreds injured in the bloodshed.

Mumbai bishop urges Indians to forgive, unite after attacks

MUMBAI, India (CNS)—A Mumbai church leader urged Catholics and people of all religions to forgive and unite after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Auxiliary Bishop Bosco Penha of Mumbai told the Asian church news agency UCA News Nov. 27 that the church condemned “this dastardly act of terrorism.”

All Catholics, he said, should “go on their knees to pray and get involved in building bridges” among people of all religions and “spread peace, harmony and brotherhood in the city.”

Bishop Penha is currently in charge of the archdiocese while Mumbai Cardinal Oswald Gracias recuperates from cancer surgery.

“The unprecedented ferocity of the terror attack” shocked local church leaders, Bishop Penha admitted.

He said he had talked to Cardinal Gracias about the Catholic Church taking more “responsibility” to do “something solid in Mumbai.”

At the Vatican Nov. 30, Pope Benedict XVI condemned the attacks as acts of “cruel and senseless violence” and led prayers for those who died and for the hundreds injured in the bloodshed.

Teams of terrorists trained in Pakistan and armed with assault rifles and grenades attacked 11 locations in Mumbai beginning about 9:30 p.m. Nov. 26.

Most of the sites targeted were in the main tourist and business district; they included the city’s main commuter train station, a hospital and two luxury hotels, where gunmen held dozens of hostages.

By Dec. 1 more than 170 people, including at least nine Islamic gunmen, had been killed.

Some buildings targeted were near

the Catholic archbishop’s residence and the Jesuit-run St. Xavier’s College.

An archdiocesan spokesman, Father Anthony Charanghat, who lives at the archbishop’s house, told UCA News he heard gunfire and grenades explode and knew “something terrible was happening.”

He said the attacks began at a popular seafood restaurant where young gunmen moved in cars, opened fire and exploded three grenades, “killing anybody in sight.”

They then proceeded to a busy train station and a cinema. The government imposed a curfew in the area, Father Charanghat reported.

The attacks frightened people of all religions, said Dolphy D’Souza, president of the Bombay Catholic Sabha (council). Bombay is the former name of Mumbai.

“Words don’t come so easily to express anything except that fear is writ large on the face of this city,” he told UCA News.

“The terror attacks have shaken the church in the city,” added Joseph Dias, general secretary of the Mumbai-based Catholic Secular Forum.

The Catholic Church should take a proactive role to broker peace and harmony, Dias told UCA News, saying his group will try to reach out to the bereaved families and expose the terrorists’ machinations to disturb peace in the country.

Michael Pinto, vice chairman of the National Commission for Minorities and a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Holy Name in Mumbai, said the attacks were planned to project India as an unsafe destination and hurt its economy.

Pope condemns terrorist attacks in India, prays for victims

MUMBAI, from page 1

suspected Islamic militants assaulted at least 10 targets in a three-day siege that began Nov. 26.

The pope also expressed concern for the clashes between rival ethnic and religious groups in Jos, Nigeria, where at least 200 people were killed Nov. 28-29. Churches and mosques were burned in the rioting.

“The causes and circumstances of these tragic events are different, but there should be a common sense of horror and condemnation for the explosion of such cruel and senseless violence,” the pope told pilgrims from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter’s Square.

“Let us ask the Lord to touch the hearts of those who delude themselves by thinking that this is the way to resolve local or international problems,” he said.

The morning after gunmen attacked the targets in Mumbai, including the luxury Taj Mahal hotel, the pope deplored the brutality of the violence in a telegram sent to Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai.

The papal telegram appealed “for an end to all acts of terrorism, which gravely offend the human family and severely destabilize the peace and solidarity needed to build a civilization worthy of mankind’s noble vocation to love God and neighbor.”

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the well-coordinated attacks were reminiscent of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist acts against U.S. targets.

In a commentary on Vatican Radio, Father Lombardi said the terrorists had clearly chosen India, a place of tensions and conflicts, as a “critical point at which to try to ignite an even more frightening conflagration, whose consequences are difficult to imagine, given the demographic dimensions of southern Asia and its role in world development.”

In addition to political tensions in the region, he said, India has been troubled by “persistent and perhaps growing fundamentalist currents, not only in the Islamic world but also among Hindus.”

He noted that India’s minority Catholic community had suffered recent discrimination and attacks, just as the country’s Muslim community did several years ago in a wave of anti-Islamic violence.

“It is horrible that in today’s world religion is mixed up with violence. Fundamentalism is one of the most dramatic risks faced by humanity, and it challenges the conscience of every religious person,” the Vatican spokesman said.

In India, Cardinal Gracias immediately expressed the church’s shock and sadness at the terrorist attacks, which he said were an attack upon the entire country.

“The church in India condemns this attack in the strongest possible terms. Innocent and unconnected people have been killed. Very brave police officers have been killed,” the cardinal said in an



A nun in New Delhi holds a candle during a Dec. 2 vigil for the victims of recent attacks in Mumbai, India.

appeal issued Nov. 27.

He said the Catholic Church in Mumbai was making all its medical services available to the wounded.

“We must fight together as a nation and as a united people to combat the terrorists. We must never give up hope because ultimately hope will prevail,” the cardinal said.

The Indian bishops’ conference, meanwhile, appealed to the government to take all necessary means to “guarantee the safety of citizens, who yearn for peace and calm.”

India’s National Security Guard commandos killed the last group of terrorists — who were trained in Pakistan — when they battled their way into an area of the Taj Mahal hotel Nov. 29. Shortly before that, the commandos had stormed a Jewish center in the city and found six hostages dead.

Among those killed was Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg, 29, who was born in Israel and moved to New York.

In Pakistan, Shahbaz Bhatti, a Catholic and the head of the All Pakistan Minorities Alliance, told the Rome-based agency AsiaNews that “we strongly condemn this act of barbaric terrorism and share our grief and sorrow with all families who lost their loved ones in this tragedy.”

He called on the governments of India and Pakistan to make a joint effort to ensure peace and security in the region.

Contributing to this story was Chaz Muth in Washington.

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Culture Watch

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Book on Rwandan Marian apparitions released on anniversary

BY REGINA LINSKEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Like many stories from Africa, the story of Mary appearing to three young girls in Rwanda “wasn’t told” beyond the continent, said best-selling author Immaculee Ilibagiza.

So Ilibagiza wrote the first English-language book about Mary’s apparitions in the 1980s at an all-girls Catholic high school in the remote Rwandan village of Kibeho, the only Vatican-recognized Marian apparitions in Africa.

“Our Lady of Kibeho” was released Nov. 28, the anniversary of the first apparition in 1981.

Calling “Our Lady of Kibeho” “the most important book I will write,” Ilibagiza told Catholic News Service Nov. 20 that she can remember hearing about the apparitions from her father at the dinner table, a place where her close family gathered nightly to share the stories of the day and talk about religion.

“My dad said, ‘You won’t believe what happened; the Virgin Mary appeared to a girl in Kibeho,’” Ilibagiza recalled.

She said she learned the details of the Marian apparitions from family talk, village chatter and the tape recordings of the visionaries and Kibeho onlookers that the local priest recorded and played to his parish.

But Ilibagiza said she wasn’t exactly thrilled at the time that another girl saw Mary before she did. That year, Ilibagiza’s fourth-grade teacher had told her class the story of Our Lady of Fatima, and the young Ilibagiza made it her mission to become a visionary.

Ilibagiza, her best friend and her best friend’s little brother pretended to be shepherds, just like the Fatima visionaries, and prayed that Mary would appear to them.

Initially, the local Kibeho priest, villagers and even some members of the Ilibagiza family thought the first visionary, Alphonsine Mumureke, was a liar.

“In my heart as a child, I believed it 100 percent,” said Ilibagiza.

Then Mary appeared at the school to Anathalie Mukamazimpaka and another young girl known only as Marie-Claire, who had tormented Alphonsine after the first apparitions. The three visionaries were rigorously tested by medical and church officials.

In 2001, the Vatican recognized the apparitions to the three girls.

Crowds gathered to witness the mysterious rains that would fall unpredictably from clear skies and to hear Mary’s messages to the visionaries from 1981 to 1989.

The visionaries said Mary asked Rwandans to pray, fill their hearts with love, and reject sin and evil deeds. The visions were joyful until one day in 1984 when all the visionaries reported seeing violence, dismembered corpses, and



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza gestures while sharing her story of survival and forgiveness at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va., in 2006. Ilibagiza has written the first English-language book about Mary’s apparitions at an all-girls Catholic high school in Rwanda.

destruction, the book says.

Mary warned that if Rwandans did not renew their hearts and dispel evil, there would be genocide, it says.

Mary also requested that a church and a basilica, which Mary named in the visions as “Seven Sorrows Church” and “Reunion of the Dispersed Basilica,” be built at Kibeho, Ilibagiza told CNS.

During 100 days in 1994-1995, Rwandans from the majority Hutu tribe hacked to death nearly 1 million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Corpses clogged the roadways and littered the countryside. More than 5,000 refugees were shot by soldiers in Kibeho’s church in 1995.

Most of Ilibagiza’s family, including her brothers, mother and father, were murdered during the war. For 91 days, Ilibagiza hid with six other women in a 3-foot-by-4-foot bathroom at a neighbor’s house. Ilibagiza’s best-selling book, “Left to Tell,” was about how she got through those horrific days with prayer.

“Nothing can ever be difficult to endure if you know Our Lady loves you,” she told CNS.

In the months that followed the Rwandan holocaust, the Marian visions were forgotten, the book says. But as time went on, pilgrims gradually returned.

Ilibagiza told CNS she expects 50,000 people to visit Kibeho for the anniversary this year.

When asked if Ilibagiza knew as a young girl that she would become an author, she said such an idea was “a far-away dream.”

“People in my country didn’t write things down”; they told stories, she said.

“Our Lady of Kibeho” is told as a Rwandan would share a story. It’s about her personal memories and an account of the effect the apparitions had on her and her country.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 14, 2007

Dec. 14, Third Sunday
of Advent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Psalm, Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

God’s presence is evident in those around us

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Jesuit Father Hubert Schiffer led quite a varied life as a priest. But his survival of the 1945 atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima is what brings him to mind in connection with today’s Advent readings.

Having removed most of the glass embedded in his skin by the explosion, he and other surviving members of his religious order went about gathering up orphans, caring for their needs and bringing them to the train station, so they could travel to safety away from the radioactive debris.

Jesus is coming.

Sister Mary Augustine Matzner, a member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, had many stories of her service of others. One involved taking care of a number of infants in an isolated cabin in the Dakotas.

A blizzard hit unexpectedly, and wood for the heating stove ran out. The only way she and her charges were able to survive the extreme cold was to huddle under blankets, the small children snuggled against her body to draw on her

warmth. And survive they did.

Jesus is coming.

Another friend, Mary Schad, had a glow of holiness. Her simple, gentle nature was evident to anyone who met her.

Mary would regularly join others to serve food to the homeless in the basement of a Dallas church. One day as she was dishing out cornbread, the line extended much further than the cornbread that remained in the serving tray.

But as long as people came through the line, the meager amount of cornbread lasted.

Jesus is coming.

These are the acts of those who reflect the Isaiah Scripture: “He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted.... to announce a year of favor from the Lord. ...”

They echo Mary’s proclamation when she says, “He has filled the hungry with good things,” and they reveal the One whom we await in Advent, the One of whom John the Baptist said, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

We know this to be true because we have seen the fruit of his coming in those who serve him.

Jesus is coming.

Questions:

As we walk through this season of waiting, can you identify people in your own life who have shown you evidence that Jesus has come? What did their revelation of God’s presence teach you?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

“I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert, Make straight the way of the Lord’” (John 1:23bc).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 7-13

Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8; **Monday (Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Juan Diego)**, Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. Damasus I)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:39-47; **Saturday (St. Lucy)**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9-13.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 14-20

Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28; **Monday (Advent Weekday)**, Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday)**, Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38.



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—Springfield News-Sun

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Placido Domingo says new CD highlights Pope John Paul humanity

Songs based on late pope's poetry

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Famed tenor Placido Domingo said his new album of songs based on Pope John Paul II's poetry illustrates the great humanity and wide interests of the late pontiff.

"It's not supposed to be a religious record, but one that illustrates his humanity and his literary and intellectual capacity," Domingo told Vatican Radio Nov. 28.

"I reflected on this a long time, and told myself the world needs to know what John Paul II has written," he said.

The album, titled "Amore Infinito" ("Infinite Love"), features 12 songs in various languages that were inspired by the poetry Pope John Paul wrote before his election as pope in 1978.

The themes include the world of manual labor, young love, war, nature and family relations.

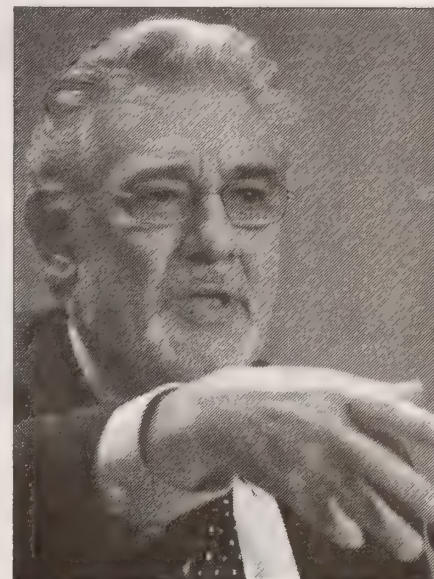
"This was an act of faith and at the same time an artistic endeavor," Domingo said at a Vatican press conference.

He said the album treated the pope's poetic compositions with great respect.

"The album has great meaning to me, and it speaks to anyone who deeply respects a man of rare greatness like John Paul II," he said.

"I am sure he will be a saint soon," Domingo said of the pope, whose sainthood cause is being considered at the Vatican.

The compact disc was released



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo speaks during a news conference at the Vatican Nov. 28. Domingo presented a new album of songs inspired by poems penned by the late Pope John Paul II.

in Italy Nov. 28. Domingo said other international versions would follow, and that he planned to take the songs on tour in a series of 10 concerts in various countries.

Joining Domingo for duets on the album were his son, Placido Domingo Jr., Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, U.S. gospel singer Vanessa Williams, Welsh opera star Katherine Jenkins and U.S. symphonic pop singer Josh Groban.

Vatican newspaper: Beatles' music better than today's pop songs

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican newspaper said the musical compositions of the Beatles were far more creative than the "standardized and stereotyped" pop music of today.

The Beatles' songs have demonstrated "remarkable staying power, becoming a source of inspiration for more than one generation of pop musicians," it said.

The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, published a lengthy and laudatory retrospective on the Beatles Nov. 22 to mark the 40th anniversary of the release of the "White Album," the group's groundbreaking double-record set.

"Forty years later, this album remains a type of magical musical anthology: 30 songs you can go through and listen to at will, certain of finding some pearls that even today remain unparalleled," it said.

With rock songs like "Back in the U.S.S.R." and "Helter Skelter," ballads like "Julia" and "Blackbird," and dreamlike pieces like "Dear Prudence," the album represents the "creative summit" of the Beatles' career, it said.

What characterized the "White Album" and the Beatles' best music in general was an inventiveness that stands in stark contrast with popular music today, the newspaper said.

"Record products today seem mostly standardized and stereotyped, far from the creativity of the Beatles," it said.

The modern pop music industry is too willing to sacrifice originality and fantasy in order to satisfy the consumer models it has adopted and promoted, it said.

The newspaper also recalled that the Beatles were recording with rudimentary tools compared to those used by the high-tech recording industry today. Even so, "a listening experience like that offered by the Beatles is truly rare," it said.

As for John Lennon's famous quip in 1966 that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ, the Vatican newspaper dismissed it as youthful bragging.

"The phrase that provoked profound indignation, especially in the United States, after so many years sounds merely like the boast of a working-class English youth faced with unexpected success," it said.

ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For December, here's a look at the apostolic vicars in North Carolina



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Benedictine Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid is pictured outside Belmont Abbey with visiting abbots during the celebration when the abbey was elevated by the pope to abbatial nullius diocesis (abbey of no diocese) status in 1910.

On Dec. 9, 1887, Benedictine Abbot Leo Haid of Belmont Abbey was chosen to be the last vicar apostolic of North Carolina.

An apostolic vicariate is a mission territory that is not yet ready to be established as a diocese. The pope appoints a vicar apostolic to serve and govern this territory in the pope's name.

A vicar apostolic also may receive a titular bishop title (all bishops belong to one of two categories: diocesan or titular). Titular bishops hold a title other than that of diocesan bishops, such as auxiliary bishops, territorial abbots and apostolic vicars. Titular bishops are given titles of some 2,000 ancient Catholic dioceses and archdioceses.

Most titular bishops serve in Asia Minor, North Africa, the Balkans and Greece.

Apostolic Vicariate of North Carolina:

— March 3, 1868: North Carolina is separated from the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., and is canonically established as a vicariate apostolic.

— June 8, 1910: Belmont Abbey is elevated to the status of territorial abbey (abbatia nullius) and eight counties from the Apostolic Vicariate of North Carolina are placed in its jurisdiction: McDowell, Burke, Catawba, Polk, Rutherford, Cleveland, Lincoln and Gaston counties.

— Dec. 12, 1924: The Apostolic Vicariate of North Carolina is elevated to the rank of a diocese and becomes the Diocese of Raleigh, excluding the eight counties listed above.

Apostolic Vicars of North Carolina:

— Bishop James Gibbons: Pope Pius IX appointed Bishop Gibbons as the first vicar apostolic of North Carolina in 1868 (at the age of 33) and as titular bishop of Adramyttium. From 1872 to 1877, Bishop Gibbons served as both vicar apostolic of North

Carolina and bishop of Richmond, Va. Bishop Gibbons later became cardinal of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Md.

— Bishop John J. Keane: He succeeded Bishop Gibbons as both bishop of Richmond and vicar apostolic of North Carolina from August 1878 through 1881. He was named the first rector (president) of Catholic University of America in 1886. In 1900, he was appointed archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa.

— Father Mark Gross: Pope Leo XIII appointed Father Gross vicar apostolic of North Carolina in September 1879. He accepted the appointment humbly but soon renounced his acceptance. Thus, Bishop Keane remained vicar apostolic of North Carolina.

— Bishop Henry P. Northrop: Third vicar apostolic served from 1881 to 1888 and retained this position after being selected bishop of Charleston in 1883.

— Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid: In December 1887, Abbot Haid was appointed as titular bishop of Messene and final vicar apostolic of North Carolina by Pope Leo XIII. His episcopal consecration was July 1888.

(Belmont Abbey was elevated to the status of abbatia nullius diocesis — an abbey of no diocese — in 1910. The Belmont Abbey cathedral is the only one in the United States, and it returned to its original status as Abbey Church of Maryhelp after the abbatia nullius was suppressed Jan. 1, 1977. In 1998, it was named a minor basilica by Rome.)

Abbot-Bishop Haid held three positions: abbot of Belmont Abbey, ordinary of the abbatia nullius and vicar apostolic of North Carolina. After his death, Pope Pius XI promoted the apostolic vicariate to the rank of diocese in 1924. The new Diocese of Raleigh covered the entire state, except the eight county abbatia nullius.

From Peru to St. Pius X

Students get updates, thanks from sister parish counterparts

GREENSBORO — A member of St. Pius X Church's sister parish in Peru recently made a surprise visit to St. Pius X School in Greensboro.

Sister Barbara Philippart, a member of the Sisters of Charity, visited each classroom Nov. 7. She is well known to the students as the "face" of the sister parish, Santiago de Manazo, located in the high Andes mountains.

Sister Philippart relayed messages of gratitude from the students' counterparts in Manazo, where the village children receive education and hot meals from the financial contributions of families and students at St. Pius X Church and School.

For the past 11 years, St. Pius X School students have participated in monthly "no uniform" days by donating a dollar each to dress down. Money raised is sent at the end of the school year to fund Manazo's hot lunch and education programs.

This past year, 50 children and 25 senior citizens received daily hot meals due to the contributions — 12,493 bowls of soup were served for free and 15,182 bowls of soup were subsidized.

Sister Philippart, who lived in Peru for 25 years, now works with a Hispanic community in Michigan but travels regularly to Manazo.



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Mark Akerman and second-graders of St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured with Sister Barbara Philippart, who brought news and gratitude from the sister parish in Manazo, Peru, Nov. 7.

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Appreciating their principal



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Joseph Puceta of St. Michael School in Gastonia is pictured with students during the school's Principal Appreciation Day Nov. 20. Puceta was presented with a banner with their names hand written on it. A chocolate cake was made especially for him by seventh-grade teacher Brenda Barber, also known as the school's "expert pastry chef."

Partners in prayer



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-grade students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point join their pre-kindergarten "prayer partners" for a snack in the gymnasium following a school Mass Nov. 19. The school's prayer partner program pairs older and younger students for the academic year to give them opportunities to know each other and participate in various activities together.

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Green with faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Sharon Broxterman of St. Gabriel School in Charlotte is pictured with students Lachlan Hassman, Mariel Green, Matthew Lothspeich, Liam Kelly and McKinzey Larkins during the school F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God) Day celebration Nov. 18. The students, faculty and parents celebrated F.R.O.G. Day, sponsored by the school's Faith Advisory Committee, by decorating the school and participating in various activities with frog- and faith-inspired themes. Students were able to dress down and wear green if they brought in canned goods for Catholic Social Services' food pantry.

Showcasing silly socks



COURTESY PHOTO

Kay Roberts' kindergarten students show off their socks during the class Silly Sock Day at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Oct. 9. The class studied the letter S during the week, made vegetable soup for lunch Oct. 7 and wrapped up the week by wearing colorful socks.

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ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with others through The Catholic News & Herald?

Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte will conduct the 21st annual Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious on the weekend of Dec. 13-14.

Last year this collection, which is conducted by the National Religious Retirement Office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., distributed \$23 million in grants that benefited 482 of the nation's Catholic religious institutes of women and men.

Since the first national collection took place in Catholic parishes in 1988, the National Religious Retirement Office has raised more than \$550 million. Donations have enabled the office to support retirement funds at religious institutes, influence local fundraising and assist with capital campaigns. Grant awards have helped ensure quality of life and adequate health care for thousands of women and men religious who were formerly at risk.

More than 37,000 Catholic religious are now past age 70. More than 4,900 women and men require skilled nursing care, where the average cost in the United States averages more than \$55,200 annually. One out of every five religious institutes still has less than 20 percent of the amount needed to care for elderly members.

Almost without exception, our elderly and infirm religious offer moving examples of aging with grace, dignity and faith. Most elderly religious even continue volunteer ministry long after they retire from compensated ministry.

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church there have been those men and women who, called by God, took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience upon entering religious communities. They are the teachers, nurses, counselors and social workers who ministered to others as the hands of Christ in our world today.

On the weekend of Dec. 13-14, Catholics throughout the Diocese of Charlotte will have an opportunity to "Share in the Care" of our retired religious. The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken at all of the Masses on that second weekend in December. I encourage everyone to acknowledge the treasure that our elderly religious represent and respond generously to their retirement needs.

Grateful for your prayers and generosity toward the retired religious throughout the United States, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Mauricio W. West

Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

Column captures post-election feelings

I have always enjoyed Father John Catoir's spiritually uplifting columns, but this time I'm inspired to write and thank him for the excellent editorial "Will we become a secular society: Bishops care about deterioration of moral values in society" (Nov. 21).

His summary and carefully worded comments on the final outcome of

the interminable election process put everything in better perspective for me. It articulated more clearly why I voted as he did and feel the same way he does regarding the outcome.

The church hierarchy should continue to stand firm in its position regarding the sanctity of life from conception until death, and keep educating its members in

Getting the most out of the Mass

Signs and symbols are there to lead us closer to God

Catholicism is often criticized because it is misunderstood by both Catholics and non-Catholics. One of Catholicism's criticized and misunderstood areas is the liturgy.

Through the years, I've heard people say, "I get nothing out of the Mass." Some people have left the church because of this reason. But the solution is simple: If you get nothing out of Mass, it may be because you don't understand it and put nothing into it.

Contrary to popular belief, the Mass' primary purpose is not to entertain you. In fact, the Mass is participatory — you are not to just sit and stare, you are to be an active participant. You are to put something into it, and what you put into it is yourself.

The Catholic religion as a whole, and its liturgy specifically, is full of signs and symbols. This can be a basis for misunderstanding — critics say Catholics worship statues, pray to dead people, go through all kinds of motions and moves.

The signs and symbols of our religion are in fact just reminders of some place, person or thing that had a very specific and blessed relationship with God. When we look at, think about or reenact these signs and symbols, we hopefully will try to emulate their actions and come closer to God.

The church teaches God is infinite and therefore cannot be understood by the finite. So that we, in our humanity, can better understand God, the church expresses his infinity through physical signs and symbols that we can see and understand, believing that through them God can be made manifest to and experienced by us.

But, when we look at and practice these signs and symbols, too many times we do them half-heartedly, routinely and with no knowledge, thought or reflection on what they mean.

If during Mass we were to truly understand and participate, the liturgy would become much more meaningful and fulfilling.

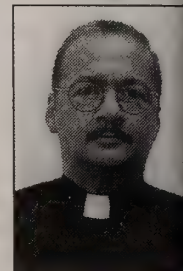
Let us take a brief look at a few of our liturgy's signs and symbols to better understand what they mean.

The baptismal font — a physical reminder of our baptism and our baptismal promises.

The crucifix — unlike Protestant

Guest Column

DEACON
CURTISS TODD
GUEST COLUMNIST



crosses from which Jesus is removed, it is a reminder of what Jesus did and sacrificed for us.

Genuflection — a slow and deliberate action to honor and respect Jesus on the altar.

The Mass' entrance processional — shows that we, as the people of God, are on a journey from this world to eternity with Jesus as our final goal.

The homily — much more than a sermon, which is exaltation and animation, it is a teaching moment.

Penitential rite — an invitation to recall sins and repent in silence, or a series of invocations whereby all confess their trust in the power of Jesus to save them from sin and lead them to heaven.

Profession of Faith — more than a list of things we believe in, it is a bold statement of our belief in Scripture and a profession that our faith and its practice will lead us to give our lives to God and one another — just as Jesus did. We must not just recite it, but listen and reflect.

Eucharistic prayer — a prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification, it is the center and summit of the entire liturgy. The meaning of the prayer is that the entire congregation joins itself to Jesus in acknowledging the great things that God has done. The people offer the sacrifice in both silent reverence and communal acclamations.

Dismissal — a period of silence before the end of Mass. We prepare to return to the world unburdened, healed, strengthened, renewed and fortified by the entire liturgy, and by having received Jesus in word and Eucharist.

Recessional — Having received Jesus at Mass, we take him out into the world.

We cannot take Jesus with us, or appreciate our Catholic faith, if we are not participatory at Mass. Our participation includes giving ourselves totally to God in mind, heart and spirit — to praise, thank, petition, glorify and profess him.

We must know that at every liturgy Jesus and the Holy Spirit are present. We must know they will come to us if we are open to receiving them. And if we give ourselves, they will give themselves. If we don't, they won't.

Are you getting something out of Mass?

Deacon Todd is a permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Letter to the Editor

this respect at every opportunity.

Perhaps one of these days there will be a new dawning in regard to how people think, and "morality" will be reinstated in our country and others.

— Jo Steinger
Weaverville

I hear you, God

Confession pardons us of sins, gives ability to resist them in future

"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins ..."

When I first heard this prayer 12 years ago, after being away from the Catholic Church since high school, I didn't pay much attention to the words. Today, however, every time I go to confession (now known as the sacrament of reconciliation) and hear the Prayer of Absolution, the voice of God's mercy truly speaks to my heart.

The only words that can surpass his truly miraculous prayer are: "This is my Body, which will be given up for you." Appropriately, the best way to be well-disposed to receive the infinite graces the Eucharist offers is to go to confession frequently.

The first two weeks of Advent concentrate on the Second Coming of Christ and have a penitential dimension. This is why we usually have penance services throughout the diocese during this time.

A great way to prepare for Christ's Second Coming and to receive the Christ Child in our homes and hearts during Christmas is to first receive God's mercy

through the sacrament of reconciliation. For not only do we receive pardon for our sins during this sacrament, but we also are given the graces to resist those sins in the future.

The church encourages the faithful to go to confession no less than once a year. But in today's turbulent times — especially with the constant media bombardment of insidious attacks on sexual morals and values — is once a year enough to remain strong in the Lord and faithful to his teachings?

Pope John Paul II said that if a person went to confession at least once a month, he or she would become a saint. The late pope went to reconciliation daily. Arguably, he is one of the greatest popes of modern times and most likely will be proclaimed a saint.

As such, if we are serious in our pursuit of holiness, why not make monthly confession an essential part of our spiritual lives?

Through the sacraments God communicates his grace in tangible and clear forms. We use water for baptism; bread and wine for holy Communion and the Precious Blood of Christ; oil for the anointing of the sick and confirmation. Even in matrimony, we use wedding

Guest Column



RICO DE SILVA
GUEST COLUMNIST

bands as symbols of the vows. God wants us to see, touch, smell and even taste his presence in them.

Reconciliation is the only sacrament in which the only outward sign is hearing God's grace and forgiveness communicated to us through a priest.

Some critics feel they don't have to confess to a priest, but only to God. But God, in the person of Jesus Christ, appointed his disciples and their successors to forgive sins and bind and loose, on earth as it is in Heaven (Jn 20:22-23).


What could be more beautiful than to hear God tell us through the priest "I forgive you, go in peace and sin no more?"

If you want God's forgiveness for any sin with which you are struggling, go to confession and listen with your heart to that beautiful absolution prayer. "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ..."

Amen.

De Silva is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Christ's redemptive power is stronger than evil, pope says



The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Evil and sin are not irremediable facts of human nature; they can be overcome with the redemptive power of Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The evil in human hearts has developed into "a filthy river that poisons the landscape of human history," the pope said Dec. 3 at his weekly general audience. But through Christ's presence, God has given the world the power to heal because Christ's "river of light" is stronger than this stream of evil, he said.

With an estimated 7,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the meaning of original sin and how the church explains the presence of evil in the world.

Original sin is real and felt by every human being, every day, but this evil is not a normal part of human nature, he said.

Evil does not come from God, he said. "Evil comes from a freedom (that was) created, a freedom abused" by Adam, the pope said.

Lives in the balance

Our world still sees some people not as gifts but as burdens

In mid-November, the news from Italy looked bleak for a 37-year-old woman named Eluana Englaro.

News reports stated that Eluana's elderly father had been fighting in court for 17 years to let her starve to death. And on Nov. 13, Italy's highest court awarded him that false "right."

It seemed the case was closed.

Eluana's father had conquered the court system, but would he conquer a dedicated group of women religious? The Nuns of the Misericordine Order have been lovingly caring for his

daughter for the past 14 years, and when the court caved in, they stepped up.

In their appeal to continue to care for Eluana they stated:

"If there is someone who considers her dead, let them leave her to continue with us, who feel she is alive. Let us have the freedom to love and give ourselves to one who is weak.


"Our hope, and that of many like us, is that the death by hunger and thirst of Eluana, and others in her condition, will not be carried out."

The courage and tenacity of these women religious was inspiring. Bishops and cardinals, lay persons and organizations, and doctors and politicians began to speak out. It created a local "culture of life" that is making it quite challenging for Eluana's father to find another facility willing to starve his daughter to death — the same long and tortured death that Terri Schiavo endured four years ago in the United States.

A car accident 16 years ago left Eluana in what some call a "vegetative state." She is not terminally ill. Like each of us, she is a person of immeasurable worth and dignity.

All Eluana needs physically is basic care, including the food and water that each of us takes for granted every day. And there is no doubt that the heroic nuns who now stand by her side are giving her the most loving care possible.

Life Issues Forum



TOM GRENNCHIK
GUEST COLUMNIST

Patients, or their proxies empowered to speak for them, have a moral right to reject extraordinary treatments that are too burdensome for the patient. But no one has a right to deprive them of basic care.

Time and again, the Catholic Church has reminded us that providing warmth, hygiene, food, water and basic comfort are normally required forms of care, not extraordinary medical treatments. We can reject medical treatments as too burdensome, but we must never reject life itself because we see a human life as burdensome.

Let us pray hard for Eluana and the many others like her. May our world see her as the gift that the nuns so clearly recognize, and not as a burden.

Pray too, for the successful campaign by the Nuns of the Misericordine Order, and all those whom they have inspired. We must halt society's descent into a culture where death is seen as the solution to medical, social and economic problems.

Lives hang in the balance.

Grenchik is executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider the Apostle's teaching on the relation between Adam, the first man, and Christ, the second Adam (cf. 1 Cor 15:22.45; Rom 5:12-21).

Paul's teaching on the sin of Adam and its disastrous consequences for the human family is meant to emphasize the surpassing gift of grace bestowed on humanity by Jesus Christ.

Seen in this light, the doctrine of original sin explains the misery of our human condition, yet Paul also underlines the moral responsibility of each man and woman for this tragic reality.

"All have sinned," the Apostle tells us, "and all fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23).

Yet now, by faith in Christ, we have been justified and are at peace with God (cf. Rom 5:1). Christ, the new Adam, by his obedience to the Father's will, has set mankind free from the ancient burden of sin and death.

In baptism, he has given us a share in his saving death and resurrection, and made us adoptive children of the Father.

The new life and freedom, which we have received by the grace of Christ, impels us to bear witness to the sure hope that all creation will be freed from its bondage to corruption, and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God (cf. Rom 8:19ff.).

'Tolerance, respect and trust are always two-way streets'



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE BLAKE, REUTERS

Members of the Knights of Columbus arrive at a rally in support of Proposition 8 at a football stadium in San Diego Nov. 1. Californians approved Proposition 8, defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, overturning a recent California court decision legalizing gay marriage.

Archbishop asks for tolerance of views in same-sex marriage debate

BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco's archbishop has appealed to people on both sides of the same-sex marriage issue to be tolerant of each other, to "disagree without being disagreeable" and not presume to know "the real motives" behind people's viewpoint.

"We need to stop hurling names like 'bigot' and 'pervert' at each other. And we need to stop it now," Archbishop George H. Niederauer said Dec. 1 in an open letter.

Voters in the state Nov. 4 passed a ballot initiative called Proposition 8, which is a constitutional amendment to define marriage as "valid and recognized" only if between a man and a woman.

Since Election Day there have been vigorous protests against the outcome in California and around the country by gay rights supporters.

Some of the demonstrations have targeted churches and in particular Mormon temples, because the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was a major funder of a campaign supporting the measure.

The Catholic Church and other denominations also supported it.

On Nov. 19 the California Supreme Court agreed to decide constitutional issues stemming from voters' approval of the initiative but has denied requests to suspend enforcement of the initiative until the questions are resolved.

In his open letter, posted on the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Web site, www.sfarchdiocese.org, the archbishop said people "need to stop talking as if we are experts on the real motives of people with whom we have never even spoken."

He said that "tolerance, respect and trust are always two-way streets" and called on "churchgoers" to "speak and act out on the truth that all people are God's children and are unconditionally loved by God."

"Whoever they are, and whatever their circumstances, their spiritual and pastoral rights should be respected, together with their membership in the church," the archbishop wrote.

"In that spirit, with God's grace and much prayer, perhaps we can all move forward together," he wrote.

Agree to disagree

In the letter, the archbishop also:

— Stated that the Archdiocese of San Francisco "did not donate or transfer any archdiocesan funds" to support Proposition 8.

— Strongly criticized "voices in the wider community" which charged Proposition 8 backers with "hatred, prejudice and bigotry."

— Defended faith communities' involvement in the political arena.

— Underscored Proposition 8 backers' "defense of the traditional

understanding and definition of marriage" as their motivation, rather than seeking to attack "any group" or "to deprive others of their civil rights."

Apparently responding to media claims that he had called on contacts within the Mormon church from his 11 years as bishop of Salt Lake City for help in the Proposition 8 campaign, the archbishop wrote, "I did write to them and they urged the members of their church, especially those in California, to become involved."

Mormon financial backing of Proposition 8 has been reported at \$22 million of the roughly \$35 million raised to promote the constitutional amendment. Total spending for both sides of the campaign surpassed \$75 million; it is said to be the costliest initiative campaign in U.S. history.

"It is important to point out here that a wide range of churches became active in favor of Proposition 8 in addition to Catholics and LDS members," Archbishop Niederauer said.

"Even though we supporters of Proposition 8 did not intend to hurt or offend our opponents, still many of them, especially in the gay community, feel hurt and offended," the archbishop wrote, and then asked, "What is to be done?"

He continued, "Tolerance, respect and trust are always two-way streets, and tolerance respect and trust often do not include agreement, or even approval. We need to be able to disagree without being disagreeable."

"We need to stop talking as if we are experts on the real motives of people with whom we have never even spoken. We need to stop hurling names like 'bigot' and 'pervert' at each other. And we need to stop it now," he said.

Under the law

In issuing its order on Proposition 8, the California Supreme Court directed supporters and opponents of the initiative to submit written arguments or three questions:

— Is it invalid because it constitutes a revision of, rather than an amendment to, the California Constitution?

— Does it violate the separation-of-powers doctrine under the California Constitution?

— If it is not unconstitutional, what is its effect, if any, on the marriages of same-sex couples performed before the adoption of Proposition 8?

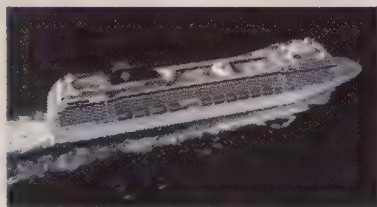
The court issued its order in three cases protesting Proposition 8 as an unconstitutional override of the high court's ruling in May that same-sex couples have a right to designate their unions as marriage.

The parties in the cases include same-sex couples and a number of cities and counties that want to issue marriage licenses under the ruling. They claim the measure denies same-sex couples equal treatment under the law.

Contributing to this story was Ric DelVecchio.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Perspectives

Shopping days or praying
days; overcoming difficult
times; attending the least

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VOLUME 18 No. 7

Bounty of Bethlehem

Event marks 25 years
of serving Christmas
Day dinners

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — This year, the "Silver Bells" Christmas song is an especially appropriate one for the annual Bounty of Bethlehem.

The Christmas Day dinner held each year in the gymnasium of Immaculata School in Hendersonville this year celebrates 25 years of serving the community.

What began in 1983 as a dinner for 200 people at a local restaurant is now a mammoth event that feeds more than 3,000 people in Henderson County and includes entertainment, gifts and

See BOUNTY, page 7

'To stand in solidarity'

Detroit religious
leaders urge action
to save auto industry

BY ROBERT DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DETROIT — Detroit-area religious leaders, convened by Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, emerged from a Dec. 4 meeting to call on Washington lawmakers to provide federal assistance to stabilize the American automobile industry.

See AUTOS, page 9

The cup runneth over



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The Vocations Blessing Cup (foreground) is shown surrounded by candles on a table in the living room of Rex and Delia Clay, who take part in a prayer service for vocations in their Charlotte home Dec. 8.

New ministry promotes prayers for vocations

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Enrollment in undergraduate college programs at Catholic seminaries in the United States is the highest it has been since the 2001-02 school year, according to a study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Despite the increase, this year's enrollment of 1,381 college seminarians is only 11 percent of the number reported by CARA's first survey in 1967-68.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, one parish is making an effort to support and promote vocation awareness with a new prayer ministry.

Using a Vocations Blessing

See CUP, page 5

Strength through faith

Couple say rosary, prayers helped
them survive ordeal at Mumbai hotel

BY NEIL W. MCCABE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON — The prayers of family and friends and the rosary helped a Brockton, Mass., couple endure a 15-hour ordeal waiting to be rescued from their room in the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, India, which came under siege from terrorists Nov. 26.

William and Geraldine

Stadelmann were on the last day of a three-week tour of India, which included a visit to the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle in the city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras.

The following day, the couple was to depart with a smaller tour going to Nepal to

See MUMBAI, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY AMIT GUPTA, REWIND

A girl prays during a candlelight vigil in Jammu, India, Dec. 4, held for the victims of Mumbai's Nov. 26 attacks.

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Roses and thorns

Pope lays achievements,
concerns at Mary's feet

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Culture Watch

Book on church response to
disaster; monks' chant CD

| PAGES 10-11

Darkness to light

Indian reservation's chapel
to be rebuilt

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ACTIVE AMBASSADOR



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI receives credentials from Mary Ann Glendon, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, during a private meeting at the Vatican Feb. 29. When she leaves her post Jan. 19, 2009, it will end a term that was the briefest on record, yet one of the most active.

Point of pride: Glendon glad to have served as Vatican ambassador

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Mary Ann Glendon leaves her post as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Jan. 19, 2009, she'll end a term that was the briefest on record, yet one of the most active.

Since her arrival in Rome last February, Glendon has been kept busy with a trip by Pope Benedict XVI to the United States in April, a return visit to the Vatican by President George W. Bush in June, five major embassy-sponsored conferences and the daily rounds of diplomatic obligations at one of the world's premier listening posts.

In early December, she was co-hosting a Rome symposium on "Philanthropy and Human Rights," which featured nine expert speakers from around the world.

Like many of the embassy's events, its editorial line largely reflected the Bush administration views on social and economic questions.

Glendon believes the last eight years have seen a convergence of U.S. and Vatican positions in such areas as humanitarian assistance, the role of faith-based institutions, religious freedom and the place of religion in civil society.

"How lucky I've been to have served here at a time when relations between the United States and the Holy See have been so close and productive," she said.

The pope's U.S. trip in April, she said, was particularly interesting to her because the pontiff made a point of praising the American model of religious freedom. Sometimes described as "positive secularism," it's a model that gives religious values a significant voice in the public square, rather than excluding them on the grounds of church-state separation.

It just happens that the American model of religious freedom is also the topic of the U.S. Embassy's last big conference under Glendon, to take place Jan. 13 in the presence of other diplomats accredited to the Holy See and Vatican officials.

Glendon is already excited about the lineup.

"It doesn't get any better than that. It's going to be the grand finale; it's going to be fantastic. Be there or be square," she said.

The January conference marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican. It is also the last in a series of embassy conferences commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Glendon said she came to the ambassador's position knowing it would be a short stint and decided to set an ambitious agenda based on those two anniversaries, convinced that human rights was an area where U.S. and Vatican interests coincided.

Glendon said one of the best things about being ambassador has been the endless variety of people and events.

"You never know what the day will bring, and the job varies with what's going on in the world," she said.

Glendon will return to her role as law professor at Harvard University in January. She'll be back occasionally at the Vatican, however, as a member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. She resigned her position as president of the pontifical academy when she became ambassador, and whether she will return as academy president again is "up to the Holy Father," she said.

Christian, Jewish, Muslim leaders write Obama on Middle East peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Washington's retired archbishop, has joined Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders in calling upon President-elect Barack Obama to take an immediate leadership role in securing peace between Palestinians and Israelis in the violence-torn Middle East.

Writing the incoming president Dec. 4, members of the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East expressed hope that Obama would follow through on his "clear and consistent commitment" throughout the recently concluded presidential campaign to make peace a high priority early in his administration.

"We believe it is essential that the leaders and people of Israel, the Palestinian territories and Arab states be assured that you intend to implement this priority with a sense of urgency following your inauguration," the leaders said.

Citing gradual but continued progress

on a number of fronts, the leaders also are seeking meetings with the new president and Hillary Clinton, Obama's nominee as secretary of state, to offer their ideas and support for U.S. efforts in the region.

"Our nation and the world will be much safer with the achievement of peace in Jerusalem," the letter said.

The letter to Obama came on the heels of a Nov. 21 consensus statement from the initiative, which reiterated the group's call for a two-state solution and the need to act immediately to secure an agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Titled "A Window of Hope for the Peace of Jerusalem," the statement acknowledged that setbacks have slowed peace efforts but said work toward peace cannot succumb to cynicism.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Cardinal McCarrick were among the interreligious leaders whose names appeared on the Nov. 21 statement.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

to attend. For more information, contact Donna Smith at dsmith18@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — A bilingual Christmas program, "Las Posadas," will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A long-standing Mexican tradition, Las Posadas is a re-enactment of the days of preparation and journey to Bethlehem that Joseph and Mary underwent before the birth of Jesus. Come for an evening filled with prayer, beautiful scenes, wonderful music and the spirit of Christmas. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — There will be a *Men's Retreat* guided by Msgr. John McSweeney at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information, call the church office (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will have a *Polish-language Mass* on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available before Mass starting at 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — In an effort to assist the poor and homeless in the community, St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., will host its *annual Christmas Dinner for the Homeless* Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help support the dinner by donating cold weather clothing items such as socks, gloves, hats and blankets. Items can be dropped off at the parish Family Life Center during the week or in the school gym Dec. 20 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.), Dec. 21 (2-4 p.m.), Dec. 22-23 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and Dec. 24 (all day). Volunteers are also needed to work the event on Christmas Day. Volunteers must sign-up prior to Christmas in order to assist with the dinner. For more information or to sign-up, e-mail StPatrickCharlotte@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — "Women Who Walked Through

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting a *Family Advent Retreat* on Dec. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This retreat is a joint effort of the music ministry and faith formation. There will be prayer, readings and a musical performed by the children's choir. For more information, call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

HUNTERSVILLE — The *seventh annual Christmas pageant*, "The Gift of Aloha," will be held at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Dec. 19, 7-8:30 p.m. This is an evening for the entire family full of song, dance and pageantry as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ through other cultures. All are invited

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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DECEMBER 12, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 9

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican signs, ratifies convention banning cluster bombs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has signed and ratified a new treaty to end the production and use of cluster bombs, and appealed to the international community to ban "this inhumane type of weapon."

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Vatican secretary for relations with states, was one of more than 100 diplomats who signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 3.

In a speech during the signing ceremony, the archbishop said the Vatican chose to sign and ratify the convention the same day in order to send "a strong political signal" to the rest of the world.

The United States and other major countries that produce cluster weapons — including Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan — have not signed the convention.

The United States has expressed

concern that a ban would restrict what it sees as the legitimate use of such weapons and has said that cluster bombs were essential to U.S. military operations.

Archbishop Mamberti urged nations who continue to produce, export or use these deadly munitions to heed the numerous civilian victims' call for disarmament and to sign the convention.

Cluster bombs scatter hundreds of submunitions or bomblets over a wide area. Most casualties of these weapons are civilians, and a high percentage of those killed or maimed are children.

The international agreement to ban cluster bombs was first reached May 30 by diplomats from 111 countries. The treaty specifies that participating countries cannot use cluster bombs and requires participants to destroy existing stockpiles within eight years and to clear bombs from old battlefields.

The treaty will take effect in mid-2009.

Fire in Faith, a series on women evangelizers of the early church, will be presented by Barbara Reagan at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — March and pray for an end to abortion during the *March for Life Charlotte* Jan. 16. Marchers should gather at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and Church Sts. across from the diocesan Pastoral Center at 11 a.m. The march will proceed to Trade and Tryon Sts. at 12 p.m. and continue to the court house at 401 W. Trade St., where participants will pray a rosary and chaplet of divine mercy. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — A healing prayer service is held the third Monday of every month in the chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The next meeting is Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. All those who are suffering from mental, spiritual or physical pain are invited to take part in this healing ministry sponsored by the Charismatic Prayer Group. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start an eight-week program on Deuteronomy beginning Jan. 6. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — *Eucharistic adoration* will be held each Tuesday during Advent from

5 to 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. There will be no planned program, just quiet time for personal prayer and adoration. For more information, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family in Clemmons is hosting a new *Homeschool Enrichment Program* for Catholic homeschooling families starting in January. The program will allow Catholic families to come together for the rosary, liturgy and other activities. Enrichment classes are free and are available for students in pre-kindergarten through middle school. For more information, call Katie Knickrehm at 336-996-2643 or visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to krmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 19 (6 p.m.)
Christmas party for deacons and wives
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Dec. 20 (10 a.m.)
Christmas party for religious sisters
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Dec. 22 (4 p.m.)
Christmas party for Pastoral Center employees
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Dec. 24 (12 a.m.)
Christmas midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

People need to accept God's invitation, live requirements for salvation, preacher says

VATICANCITY(CNS)—God opens the doors to salvation while humanity has only to accept his invitation, said the preacher of the papal household.

The preacher, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, told Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials Dec. 5 that God took the initiative of offering salvation through his son, Jesus Christ.

Individuals "have only to welcome, in faith, God's offer and live out its requirements," he said.

Offering an Advent meditation on St. Paul's conversion, Father Cantalamessa said the gift of salvation is just like a king who opens the doors to his palace, which has been decked out with a huge buffet.

"Standing at the door, he invites every passer-by to come in, saying, 'Come, everything is ready!'"

He said Jesus makes the same appeal in his parable of the wedding banquet, calling on people not to miss the opportunity to

enter the kingdom of heaven.

The papal preacher said St. Paul makes a similar point with his teachings on justification.

"Christianity doesn't start out telling people what they have to do, but what God did for them in Jesus Christ. Christianity is the religion of grace" and of receiving God's gifts, he said.

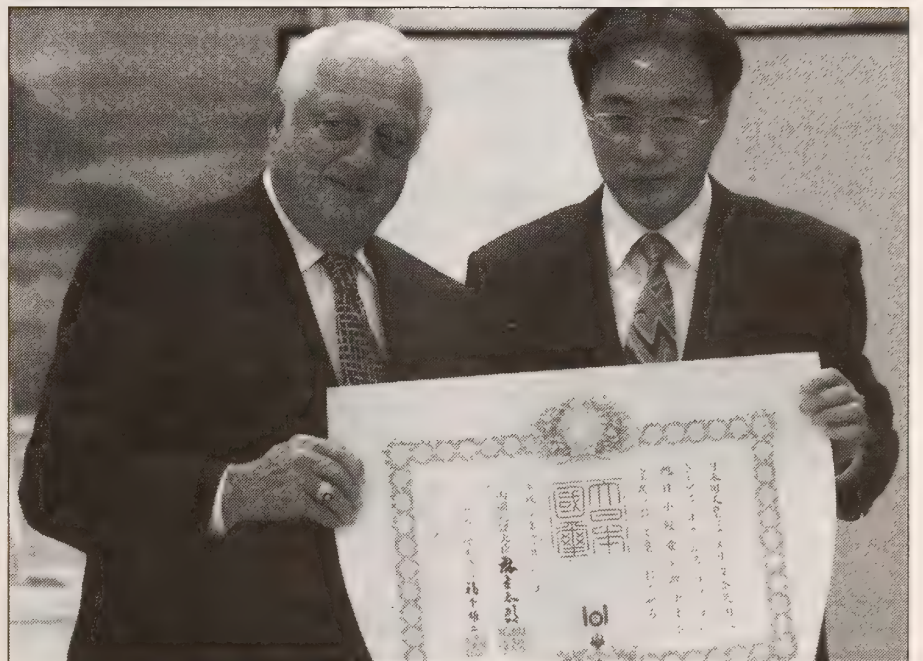
"There is room — and how — for performing one's duties and observing the commandments, but that comes after, as a response" to God's gift of justification, he said.

Doing good works and following God's laws are not the cause or the price to pay to receive salvation, he said.

"He does not save us for doing good works even though he doesn't save us without doing good works," Father Cantalamessa said.

Rather, he said, people who believe are made just in the eyes of a merciful God.

Commended for contributions



CNS PHOTO BY LUCY NICHOLSON, REUTERS

Retired Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda is presented with Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in Los Angeles Dec. 2. Lasorda, a Catholic, received the high honor from Consul General Junichi Ihara, on behalf of the emperor of Japan, for his numerous contributions to Japanese baseball.

Vatican urges protection of religious freedom, response to trafficking

VATICANCITY(CNS)—A leading Vatican diplomat called for better protection of religious freedom in the face of increasing acts of violence and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions.

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican secretary for relations with states, also urged a more comprehensive response to the problem of human trafficking and its effects on vulnerable groups such as women and children.

Archbishop Mamberti made the remarks Dec. 4 in a speech to representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe who met in Finland.

He said the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60 years ago was one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations, and noted that the church was working in every country to make sure those rights are not only proclaimed but also put into practice.

One of these fundamental rights is religious freedom, he said.

"The Holy See promotes this right, demands that it be universally respected, and views with concern the increasing episodes of violence, as well as the ongoing acts of discrimination and intolerance against Christians and members of other religions," he said.

Roses and thorns

Pope lays achievements, concerns at feet of Mary

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Laying a basket of white roses at the foot of a statue of Mary, Pope Benedict XVI said Catholics can lay everything at the feet of their heavenly mother.

"Symbolically, these roses can express everything beautiful and good that we have done during the year," the pope said during his visit to the center of Rome Dec. 8 for the traditional ceremony alongside the statue of the Immaculate Conception near the Spanish Steps.

"But, as the saying goes, 'Every rose has its thorn,' and the stems of these stupendous white roses are not lacking thorns, which represent the difficulties, sufferings and ills that have marked and still mark the lives of people and of our community," the pope said.

Under brilliantly sunny skies, bundled up against a crisp chill, thousands of Romans and tourists jammed the square around the Spanish Steps to see the pope and pray with him.

Offering the roses to Mary, the pope also entrusted to her his special prayers for children, particularly those who are sick, disadvantaged or suffering because of family problems.

He prayed for elderly people living alone, for the sick, for immigrants struggling to build a new life in a new country, for families who barely make ends meet and especially for people who recently have lost their jobs.

"Mary, teach us to be in solidarity with those who are in difficulty, to bridge the increasingly vast social disparities; help us cultivate a livelier sense of the common good," Pope Benedict prayed.

The pope said the beauty of Mary, conceived without sin, "assures us that the victory of love is possible; in fact, it is certain. It assures us that grace is stronger than sin and therefore it is possible to be redeemed from any form of slavery."

The example of Mary's life helps Christians believe in goodness, graciousness, service, nonviolence and the power of truth, he said.

"She encourages us to remain wakeful, not to give in to the temptation of easy escapes, but to face reality with all its problems with courage and

responsibility," Pope Benedict said.

The pope said that, looking up at Mary, Christians experience the same sensation a child has when looking up at his or her mother "and, seeing her smile, forgets every fear and pain."

"Turning our gaze to Mary, we recognize in her the smile of God, the immaculate reflection of divine light, and we find new hope even in the midst of the problems and dramas of our world," Pope Benedict said.

Earlier in the day, the pope recited the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

He said the feast of the Immaculate Conception reminds Catholics of two basic church teachings: the existence of original sin and the fact that, through Christ, God has redeemed those who believe.

The pope also noted that Dec. 8 marked the end of the yearlong celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes, who identified herself to St. Bernadette Soubirous as "the Immaculate Conception."



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Roman firefighter Felice Minelli places flowers on a statue of Mary on top of a column at the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8. The statue commemorates Pope Pius IX's proclamation in 1854 that Mary was without sin from the moment she was conceived.



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the foot of a statue of Mary during a ceremony marking the feast of the Immaculate Conception near the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8.

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New ministry promotes prayers for vocations

CUP, from page 1

Cup, the ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte encourages families to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

"I think so many times we complain that there are no vocations. But very rarely do we focus our prayers on that as a parish family," said Capuchin Franciscan Father Remo DiSalvatore, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Father DiSalvatore said he heard about a parish in New Jersey with a similar ministry and thought it would be a good addition to the church.

"With all the young people we have here and the spiritual parish that we have, we should be praying for vocations," he said.

Each Sunday after Mass, a family or an individual from the parish accepts the cup and agrees to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life throughout the week.

The family is asked to place the Vocations Blessing Cup in a place of honor in its home and gather around it each day to pray together.

In addition to the prayer for vocations, families are encouraged to pray the rosary together daily.

The Vocations Blessing Cup comes with a packet of materials including additional prayers, information on various religious orders and DVDs on discerning vocations.

There also is a journal that gets passed along with the cup, in which families are encouraged to share their

thoughts and experiences with others who will host the cup.

The benefits of the ministry are twofold, according to Father DiSalvatore.

"It brings the family together to pray, which is a powerful thing in itself," he said. And "it creates a deeper awareness, both in parents and children, of the great calling of the priesthood and religious life."

"I am grateful that Father Remo was moved to create this ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas and I'm honored to have been included in the planning," said Cheryl Eckert, finance administrator at the parish.

Eckert's son John is a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

"People have asked me, 'What do you do as parents to have a son discern the priesthood?'" said Eckert. "The best thing my husband and I did was pray and stay out of the way and let God do his work. The Vocations Blessing Cup Ministry has been the same way."

Joining Eckert on the planning committee are Michelle McNulty and Gloria Buchanan, also mothers of seminarians for the diocese.

"We just planted the seed and our parish has taken off with it," Eckert said.

The women first got together about eight months ago and began by researching other churches with similar ministries. When they came up with a plan for implementing it at their parish, they spoke at weekend Masses and the idea "spread like wildfire," according to Eckert.

"The calendar got filled in right away," she said.

In June, Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the cup while he was at the church for a confirmation ceremony.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Myrna De La Cruz (front), Rex and Delia Clay and their sons Kevin and Brent gather around the Vocations Blessing Cup (on table) for a prayer service for vocations in the Clay home in Charlotte Dec. 8.

Now that it has been underway for several months, the parish is beginning to see the fruits of the ministry.

"It makes our parish stronger as a praying parish," said Father DiSalvatore. "It has been a few months and already I've had one young man come and talk to me about a call to the priesthood."

Delia Clay and her family recently hosted the cup in their home.

Clay felt drawn to participate in the ministry because she "wanted to contribute to the parish mission" and because she knows there is a shortage of priests.

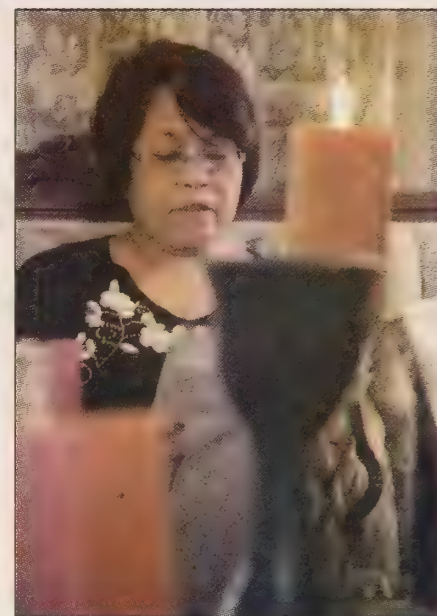
"I am hoping one of my sons may become a priest one day," she said.

For now, she is glad they are being "exposed to what the vocation is all about."

Clay said she hopes to make the prayer time with her family a nightly routine.

"It was really a good feeling," she said, "even though the cup was only with us for a week."

"By doing this, the Holy Spirit will be with us, and hopefully guide my children," she said.



WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, go to www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html.



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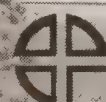
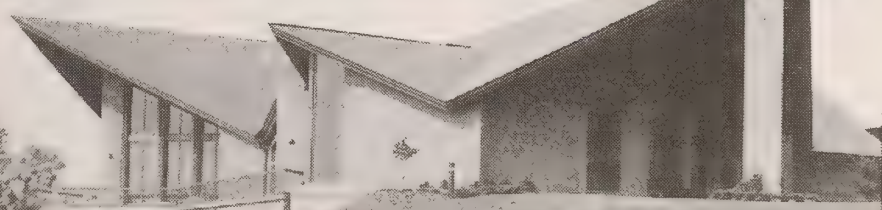
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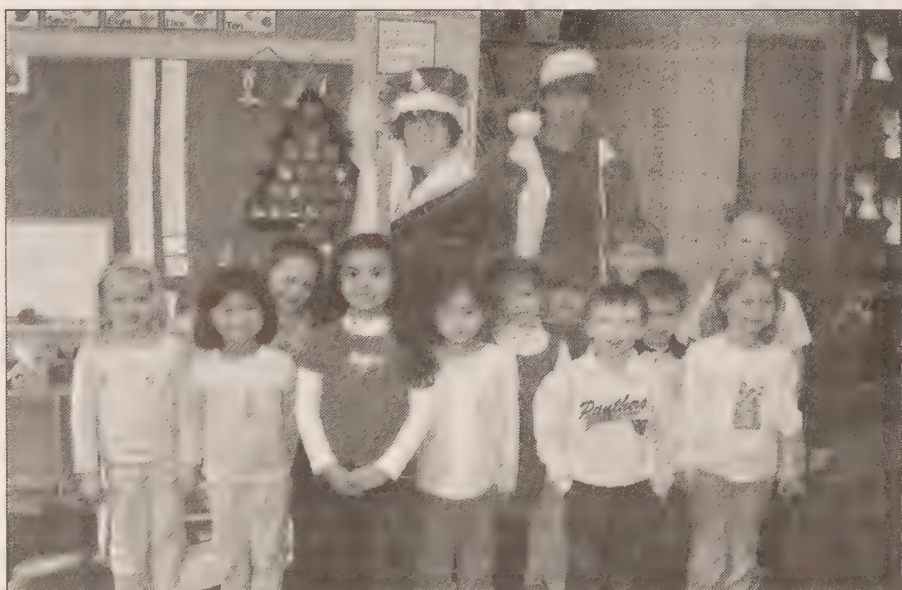
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Seeing St. Nick(s)



COURTESY PHOTO

Eddie Meeks, custodian at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, is pictured dressed as St. Nicholas Dec. 5. Meeks visited the classrooms to tell the students the story of St. Nicholas of Bari, a fourth century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor and a pastor noted for his charity. St. Nicholas also is the patron saint of children and has been popularized as Santa Claus. Legend says the saint secretly gave gold to poor girls for their dowries, which has given rise to his patronage of children and the giving of gifts in his name at Christmas time.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students stand with eighth-graders Nick Ciaccia and Garrett Nicholas Dittrich, who are dressed as St. Nicholas at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Dec. 5. Nick and Garrett got into costume to visit classrooms and give out candy canes to their fellow students in honor of the feast of St. Nicholas Dec. 6. Keeping with school tradition, each kindergarten and first-grade student left a shoe in the hallway to receive treats from St. Nick.

Blessing of the wreaths



COURTESY PHOTOS

Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, and Deacon Art Kingsley, a permanent deacon at the parish, stand with students from St. Michael School Dec. 4.

The students brought their Advent wreaths to the church to be blessed by Father Arnsparger.

Advent is a joyful period during which Christians prepare for the commemoration of Christ's birth.

The wreath is a main symbol of the season, with a new candle lit each Sunday before Christmas.



A reminder of the season's reason

Retreat explores Advent, Christmas spirit

CHARLOTTE — Hispanic Catholics in the Charlotte area gathered for an Advent retreat at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte Nov. 29.

Retreat speakers were Augustinian Father Russell Ortega, pastor of St. John Neumann Church; Deacon Guido Pozo, a permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte; and Deacon Edwin Rodriguez, a permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"Their messages powerfully stated how the same world that God so desired to save can often squelch the spirit of Advent that we are called to embrace," said Jorge Gomiz, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Charlotte Vicariate.

With hectic work and personal schedules and the commercialization of the holidays, "it's easy at times like this to forget what Christmas is really about," said Gomiz.

"The speakers remind us that this is where Advent comes in. Once we understand Advent for what it is truly meant to be, it can be the antidote to the stress that often accompanies the holiday season," he said.

"Advent calls us to refocus our minds back to what is important and to remember again the true reason for the season," he added.

"It is a time to prepare ourselves so that when God wishes to come through us, we, like Mary, will be able to say 'yes' to him," said Gomiz.

ADVENT SEASON

SPREDEd the faith

Advent Mass honors those with developmental disabilities at parish

CHARLOTTE — The annual SPRED Advent Mass was held at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Dec. 7.

The parish SPRED (Special Religious Development) program enables those with developmental disabilities to participate in the life of the church.

The Advent Mass, in which SPRED members participate, was to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of those with special needs as vital members of the church and parish family.

Father Patrick Tool, parochial vicar and chaplain for the SPRED program, celebrated the Mass, which was concelebrated by Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, and Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar. Deacon Jim Hamrlik assisted.

Nearly 2,000 people attended the Mass, including members of the Knights of Columbus and members of the United Methodist group homes.

As those with developmental disabilities learn best through ritual, music and movement, sacred movements

were performed by a group of robed catechists during the first reading. SPRED participants, with the assistance of catechist-helpers, led the congregation in gestures to the response.

After Mass, Msgr. McSweeney commended the Knights of Columbus for their ongoing support of SPRED through Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) donations. He emphasized also the importance of recognizing the dignity and blessedness of all members of the church.

St. Matthew Church currently has the only SPRED program in the area and serves as a training and observation center for other churches attempting to start a similar program. Currently, two parishes are involved with training.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the SPRED program, contact Jan Clemens, SPRED coordinator, at (704) 246-7102 or domani@carolina.rr.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Catechist-helpers and their Special Friends lead the congregation in sacred movements during the annual SPRED Advent Mass for those with developmental disabilities at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Dec. 8.



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers prepare meals to be served and distributed as part of the annual Bounty for Bethlehem Christmas Day dinner at Immaculata School in 2005. More than 3,000 people in Henderson County are expected to attend this year's dinner.

Event marks 25 years of serving Christmas Day dinners

BOUNTY, from page 1

a visit from Santa Claus, as well as meals delivered to homebound residents.

Work begins in September for the team of organizers. Hours of preparation and planning culminate the week before Christmas, when volunteers arrive to begin making the dinners.

"It's almost a yearly pilgrimage," said Randy Hair, Bounty for Bethlehem co-chairman. "There is a spirit with Bounty that makes it feel like a retreat. Not a contemplative retreat — it's too noisy and busy for that — but a hands-on place to make connections."

The hands-on atmosphere extends through the 600 volunteers as well as numerous others who provide time, donations and support to create not only a feast, but also fellowship among those who participate.

"It's the volunteers and generosity of this community that fuels this," said Hair.

The volunteers spend hours working and chatting around pots of string beans,

chopping piles of onions and celery for the stuffing, and dishing out portions of cranberry sauce. Everything at the dinner is homemade — mashed potatoes, rolls and an array of desserts round out the menu.

"I don't know what it is about working yourself to death for a week, for one meal," said B.J. Klein, co-chair.

"You leave here exhausted and go home happy as you can be. People who come here are giving from the heart. There's nothing quite like it," said Klein.

Many volunteers return year after year, and last year's dinner saw an increase in teenage volunteers. Hair's son Matt and daughter Bethany have joined him for the last six years working in the kitchen. Matt, now a freshman away at college, will return to help once again.

Additional volunteers will come in handy, as Hair expects at least a 10 percent increase in attendance this year. As the dinner relies on donations, Hair estimates 150 turkeys and 100 hams, among other items, are needed to feed the expected guests. As such, organizers have put out a call for food donations. Drop-off for turkeys and hams is Dec. 19 between 2 and 6 p.m.

"We need cookies early, because they go into the delivered meals," said Sandy Litogot, desserts chairperson. "Cakes and other desserts on the 23rd and 24th, but we need the cookies earlier. We always need a lot of cookies."

The happy faces, and the smiles of children as they receive gifts from Santa, are the reasons volunteers and contributors continue to work hard to make the dinner a success each year.

"It's a gift you give yourself by giving to others," said Hair. "Once it pulls you in, you pull in others and it's here — that spirit, it's here."

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about or to assist with Bounty of Bethlehem, visit www.bountyofbethlehem.org or call (828) 693-5115. Immaculata School is at 711 N. Buncombe Street, Hendersonville. Dinner is served Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1-5 p.m.

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Couple say rosary, prayers helped them survive attack

MUMBAI, from page 1

see Mount Everest.

The India leg of the trip concluded with an afternoon reception on the hotel's ground floor for the tourists, many of whom William Stadelmann said stayed downstairs for dinner, while he and his wife returned to their room to pack for their 4 a.m. departure for the airport.

"At the party we were all saying how safe we felt in India," he said Dec. 2.

At or around 10 p.m. there was a loud explosion.

"I thought it was fireworks," he said.

Next, he said, came a call from the hotel security, who told him there were gunmen in the hotel and he should turn off the lights, lock the door and open it for no one. For the next 15 hours, the couple stayed under their bed.

From under the bed, the couple could hear terrorists move down the hallway, pound on each door and use an explosive that sounded like a grenade.

"They would blow the door open and start shooting everyone inside," Stadelmann said.

There was at least one gunman perched high over the atrium firing into the rooms and down upon the people running across the bottom of the atrium to escape the hotel.

With the sniper outside, he said his wife did not want to risk getting up and going to the bag with her rosary beads, so she used her knuckles to keep track, he said.

"Of the 15 hours, my wife was saying the rosary for, I'd say, 14 and a half hours."

Meanwhile, Stadelmann said he used his laptop equipped with an international wireless Internet card to maintain contact with his family back home.

Beyond the explosions and the gunmen going door-to-door, the greatest danger to the couple was the fire, he said.

"There were 1,000 rooms in the hotel, so I figured our chances were

"We have tremendous faith and we were getting prayers from all over the place."

— William Stadelmann

pretty good. But, the fire was really something. A fire will find you."

Stadelmann opened the windows just a crack and he put wet towels at the bottom of the doors to block the smoke that was filling the hotel, he said. To breathe, he and his wife covered their noses with wet towels, too.

Because their section of the hotel was constructed of concrete, he said, he was confident the structure was sound, even when the roof of the atrium caught fire and its flaming pieces streamed down past their window.

When help arrived, it was a team of six Indian Army special forces soldiers dressed in black uniforms with black bandanas on their heads, he said.

"They had everything, guns, knives and radios. They were the real deal," he said.

Along the way, the group had to walk past five or six bodies and at each one his wife stopped to make the sign of the cross, he said.

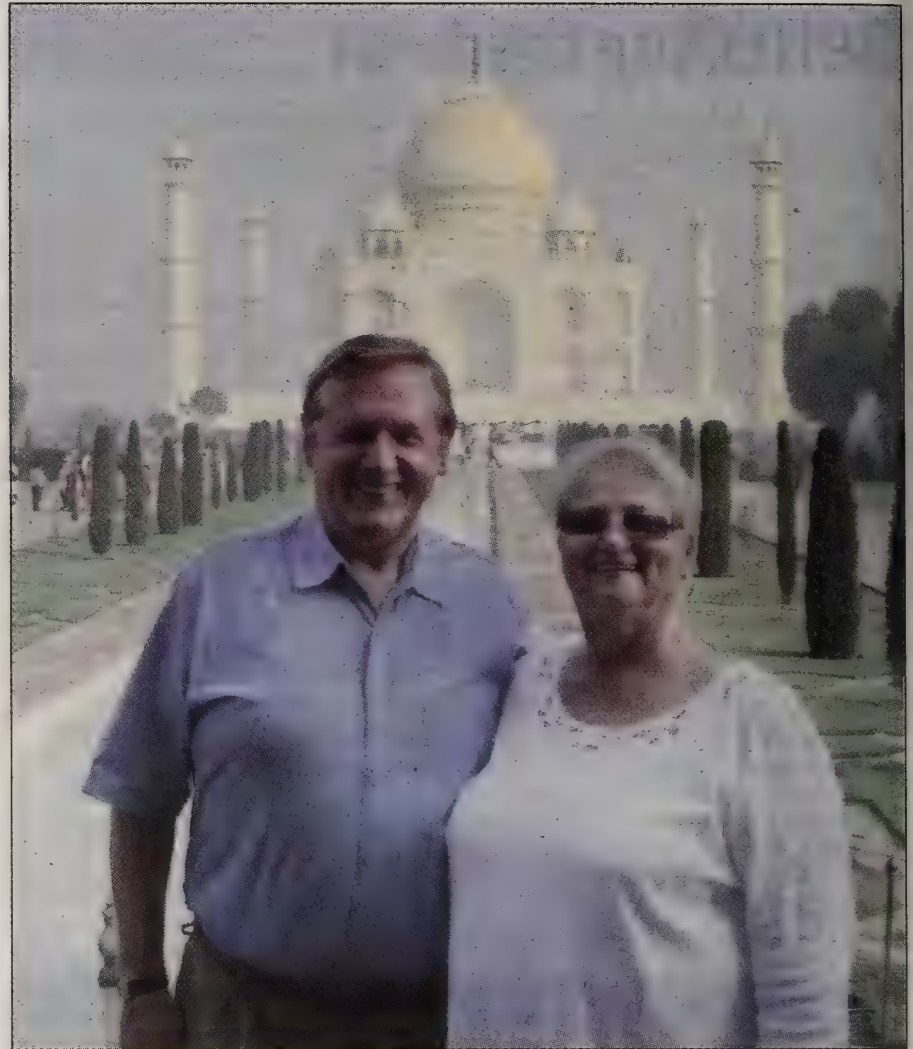
Of the more than 170 killed, one was a man from Australia the couple befriended on the tour.

"The Indian people are wonderful," he said.

Many of the hotel staff risked their lives or were killed trying to help guests get to safety. Their Hindu culture teaches them to be kind and concerned for others.

Stadelmann said those rosaries and the prayers of his friends and family back home were the reason they lived through the ordeal.

"We have a tremendous faith and we were getting prayers from all over the place," he said.



CNS COURTESY THE STADELMANN, VIA PILOT

William and Geraldine Stadelmann of Brockton, Mass., are pictured in a photo from their November trip to India. The couple were guests at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, India, and survived a siege on the hotel by terrorists Nov. 26. At least 172 people were killed in the attacks.

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FROM THE COVER

Detroit religious leaders call to save auto industry

AUTOS, from page 1

"There is great concern for the countless individuals and families who are under great stress because of the uncertainty of our economy," Cardinal Maida said at a media briefing following the meeting.

"They need to hear words of hope and encouragement. This is a time to stand in solidarity with all who are suffering the loss of jobs or homes, and all those who are anxious about what will happen in the future to the automobile industry in metro Detroit," he said.

Cardinal Maida said both business and labor leaders had expressed fear of what could happen if there is no government action.

"The alternative is not only unwise; it is unthinkable. If nothing is done, one can only imagine what would happen to all of us who call this corner of Michigan home," he added.

The 11 religious leaders represented local Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Jews and Muslims.

Cardinal Maida said they also had discussed various ways each faith community has been responding to requests for assistance to people in need — a situation exacerbated by the economic crisis — and how they can work together on programs and projects.

"We committed ourselves to keep our lines of communication open between and among our faith communities. When and where we can collaborate, we will," the cardinal said.

Besides bringing together the representatives of the various faith communities, Cardinal Maida also released to the press the text of a pastoral letter on the economy, "Christ Our Hope," to be distributed in all 290 parishes and missions of the archdiocese the weekend of Dec. 6-7.

It was printed in the Dec. 5 issue of The Michigan Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper.

In it, the cardinal offered hope and encouragement to those suffering hardships, and urged all local Catholics to show charity and solidarity to others in this time of difficulty.

Urging prompt action

The religious leaders' meeting took place as the auto companies' top executives returned to Washington to plead their case before a U.S. Senate panel.

With Michigan's U.S. senators



CNS PHOTO BY LARRY A. PEPLIN, POOL VIA MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

After a meeting with Detroit-area religious leaders, Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida speaks during a press conference in Detroit Dec. 4. Cardinal Maida and other leaders representing local Anglicans, Protestants, Jews and Muslims emerged from the meeting to call on Washington lawmakers to provide federal assistance to stabilize the American automobile industry.



CNS PHOTO BY JIM WEST

A worker tightens lug nuts on a tire on the assembly line at a General Motors plant in Lansing, Mich., Dec. 1.

and representatives already committed to supporting assistance to Detroit's automakers, the religious leaders pledged to work through their colleagues in other states to convince other lawmakers of the urgency of prompt action.

Bishop Charles Ellis, pastor of Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, pledged

to work through his denomination, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, which has 2,000 congregations.

Rabbi Daniel Syme, of Temple Beth El in suburban West Bloomfield Township, remarked on the discrepancy in the federal government's treatment of the auto companies — whose employees are mostly blue-collar workers — as opposed to Wall Street firms and their white-collar workforces.

The Rev. Edwin Rowe, pastor of Central United Methodist Church in downtown Detroit, said, "You can beat up the auto company CEOs all you want, but the people who are going to lose their jobs are the people at my door asking for help."

He also suggested white racism might be involved in some lawmakers' reluctance to help the Big Three

"There is a great concern for the countless individuals who are under great stress because of the uncertainty of our economy."

— Cardinal Adam J. Maida

automakers, as Detroit is perceived as a black city.

Congress was considering various options to help the automakers but no decisions have been reached.

Challenges and opportunities

In his pastoral letter, Cardinal Maida offered "some pastoral insights and suggestions about how we might prepare to celebrate Christmas this year when economic conditions are so grim."

He noted the loss of jobs, homes, pensions and personal investments and the fact that the automobile industry, "our primary employer," is suffering "major challenges."

"While many of us have lived through other times of downsizing and economic downturns, this time, the prospects for recovery require radical changes. Things in Michigan will probably never be the same," he said.

But the cardinal said the people of Michigan, like those around the world, have "tenacity, perseverance and determination," and are "ready to do whatever it takes to survive, even to thrive."

"As believers, we have all the more reason to see these challenging times as an opportunity to be resourceful," Cardinal Maida said.

He reminded everyone the economy is about people, not just money, and that all of them "have a responsibility to one another and that God desires 'we live as his family supporting one another.'"

He included "prayerful reflections" for readers to consider, such as:

— "When I make decisions about economic matters for myself and my family and my co-workers, in what ways do I take into account the larger common good?"

— "How might I show charity to others immediately around me?"

— "Do I believe in the power of prayer and that in many ways prayer is our greatest resource?"

"We all need to receive and we all need to give," he said, adding that there is "no shame" in needing help.

But even when people do not have "the economic means" to give to others, Cardinal Maida said, "every one of us has the ability to pray and find a way to be of service."



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Culture Watch

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Book recounts 1907 West Virginia mine disaster, church's response

Majority of miners were Catholic immigrants, many buried in nameless graves

BY COLLEEN ROWAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WHEELING, W.Va. — At Mount Calvary Cemetery in the small town of Monongah lays a simple lot of graves, some marked and others not.

It is the final resting place of hundreds — fathers, husbands, sons — who came to America in search of a better life, yet perished in the horrific Monongah coal mine disaster of 1907.

Their journey to the United States, their lives in Monongah, the disaster, the church's role in relief and healing, and the aftermath of the tragedy are described in the book "Monongah: The Tragic Story of the Worst Industrial Accident in U.S. History" by J. Davitt McAteer.

He is a former assistant secretary of the Mine Safety and Health Administration who served as special adviser to Gov. Joe Manchin on the investigations of the Sago and Alma mine tragedies of 2006.

For the book, McAteer was awarded the bronze medal in the classification for history books by the Independent Publisher Book Awards this past summer.

The Monongah disaster occurred at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 6, 1907, when an explosion below ground rocked the town and claimed the lives of hundreds — the majority being immigrants from Italy, Poland, Hungary and Ireland who worked in the mine.

McAteer, who is currently vice president of special projects at Wheeling Jesuit University, found the number of those who lost their lives to be significantly higher than the official toll.

"The official number is 362," he said, "but in my research we came up with a more accurate number — close to 517."

The majority of the miners were Catholic and the church in West Virginia and its shepherd at the time, Bishop Patrick J. Donahue, responded immediately.

"The church was extremely helpful in taking care of the families through this process," McAteer said, "and (Bishop) Donahue assigned additional priests there."

Following the disaster, Bishop Donahue and local priests began celebrating Masses for the deceased at churches, yet much to their dismay they were ordered to stop.



"Bishop Donahue had come down from Wheeling and started to work with the local priests" for the celebration of funeral Masses, McAteer said.

"At the request of the public health officer for Marion County, the Masses were suspended and the corpses were buried within an hour of coming out of the mine. ... You had an hour to identify your loved one," he said.

"A lot of them were buried without the names being on the grave," McAteer added.

The reason given for stopping the Masses was concern that contagious diseases could develop if the bodies were not buried quickly.

"That created resentment that lasted for a long time against the company and against the county," McAteer said.

The book also relates the immigrants' journeys to a new country, what they endured and how their lives changed after leaving their homelands to embrace a new home.

"This is a story not just of the accident itself, but about the immigrants," McAteer said.

Describing what their journeys were like, he said: "You left the mountains of southern Italy or of Poland and three weeks later you were underground in a coal mine in West Virginia, having never seen a coal mine in your life."

Despite "absolute dreadful conditions" where the miners worked, he said, they made a life for themselves and their families, struggled and remained in the community even after the disaster.

McAteer said he feels fortunate to have told their story — a story that is at the core of the heritage of all West Virginians.

"It's our history," McAteer said. "It's the history of the people of the diocese; it's the history of the people of the state."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 21, 2008

Dec. 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
- 2) Romans 16:25-27
- 3) Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Trusting in God helps us overcome our inadequacies

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

For the second time, we're getting ready to put a house on the market, which usually means going over it with a fine-toothed comb and looking for potential deal breakers.

Then comes the inevitable question: Given our budget, what absolutely has to be repaired, remodeled or replaced, and what can we let go?

Watching TV shows on home remodeling and "house-flipping" doesn't help. They prompt comparisons between our home and the showcases, inspiring more fix-up projects that require even more time and money.

For us, it usually comes down to praying for guidance, making tough choices and hoping we get it right in a real estate market we don't know.

In the first reading of this fourth Sunday of Advent, King David saw a problem and envisioned a building project that sounded good at the time — erecting a dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant — so that the house of the Lord of Israel would measure up to those of his neighbors' gods.

But neither David nor the prophet Nathan "got it right." In a play on words, God made it clear that the dwelling was not David's to build; rather, the Lord would raise up from David's descendants a royal "house" that would have a significance far greater than anything he could imagine.

Luke's Gospel picks up that theme and, not accidentally, mentions that Mary is betrothed to Joseph, a member of "the house of David."

But in a startling turn of events, the angel Gabriel makes it clear to Mary that the child whose coming he announces will fulfill the promise made to his ancestor David — not through the intervention of flesh and blood, but by the power of God — and in this way, "the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Though the outcome was beyond Mary's comprehension, she "got it right" by trusting in God's promise and its incredible implications for future generations.

Every day we find ourselves in situations that cry out for answers and appeal for "quick fixes," and too often we first look to our own insufficient resources for solutions.

Christ's coming, announced anew every Advent, breaks through our shortsightedness, carries us beyond our inadequacies and calls us to hope beyond our imagining.

Questions:

In what present situation are you trying to rely on your own inadequate resources to "fix" a problem?

How can you more fully rely on God's power and find hope in God's promises?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 14-20

Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28; Monday (Advent Weekday), Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; Tuesday (Advent Weekday), Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday), Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; Thursday (Late Advent Weekday), Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; Friday (Late Advent Weekday), Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; Saturday (Late Advent Weekday), Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 21-27

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent), 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38; Monday (Late Advent Weekday), 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; Tuesday (St. John of Kanty), Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday), 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Luke 1:67-79; Thursday (Nativity of the Lord), Isaiah 9:1-6, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14; Friday (St. Stephen), Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; Saturday (St. John), 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8.

Over 10,635 babies killed in Mecklenburg County alone last year!!



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Friday, January 16 - 11 am

Be a witness for the sanctity of human life and act of reparation for an end to abortion

Gather at 11am at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and S. Church St. (across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at noon to Trade

& Tryon St. Then continue on to the courthouse at 401 W. Trade St. to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot; if you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march!!

Balance of 'Doubt' is thematic subtext

"Doubt" is an engrossing drama set in 1964 at a Bronx parochial grammar school where the nun (Meryl Streep) who serves as principal suspects a popular priest (Philip Seymour Hoffman) of impropriety with a 12-year-old black student, and together with a young teacher (Amy Adams), sets out to confront him.

Writer-director John Patrick Shanley has successfully adapted his Pulitzer prize-winning stage hit, deftly recreating the Catholic milieu of the era, with outstanding performances, including that of Viola Davis as the distraught mother

of the putative victim.

Though sexual abuse is part of the story, it is the balance of doubt and certainty in society at large that forms the principal thematic subtext.

Discreetly handled sexual abuse theme.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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'Music for the Soul'

Austrian monks' CD of Gregorian chant is topping pop charts worldwide

BY ANGELO STAGNARO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — They're Austrian. They're Catholic. They sing.

That description might make readers think of "The Sound of Music" and the von Trapp family, but the singers in question are Cistercian monks of Stift Heiligenkreuz Abbey, a 12th-century monastery near Vienna.

Their CD of Gregorian chants has become a phenomenal crossover hit topping pop charts around the world.

The monastery was founded in 1133 and its community has continued uninterrupted since then.

After the European release of "Chant: Music for the Soul" in May, it quickly became the top classical album in Great Britain before crossing over and becoming No. 7 in the British pop charts.

Similarly, it has made the top-10 charts in Austria, France, Australia and Sweden.

When the CD was released July 1 in the United States, it became the most popular classical recording. The album sold 55,000 copies in its first two weeks, and sales are still going strong.

In an interview with Catholic News Service while he was in New York, Father Karl Wallner, 45, the monastery's communications director and webmaster, spoke about the growing interest in Gregorian chants, their spiritual significance, and how he and his brother monks are handling their newfound notoriety.

The priest also is the director of the monastery's theological academy, the Pope Benedict Pontifical Institute.

"The Bible is the word of God. Our chants are our way of singing it back to God using melodies from the first millennia," he said.

"Everything is about singing thanks to God. Gregorian chant has always been an intricate form of Christian spirituality," said Father Wallner.

He described the music as "calming" and having "the ability to touch people's hearts."

"Our biggest success is getting people interested in this music," he continued. "This is a special kind of prayer. God has called us to give him our whole lives."

"Gregorian chant is a means by which we can get in contact with God. God is always near to us even though we don't realize it," he said.

"God is a melody in my life. He is a piece of music that is always playing in the background. Sometimes I'm not listening," the priest added.

Gregorian chant is popular with young people, said Father Wallner. He believes that the monastery receiving 28 new vocations in the past five years is a result of the chanting.

"We never thought this CD would be as popular as it is," said Father Wallner. "We're glad about it, but it's still a surprise. We are not Vienna's newest boy band."



PHOTO BY CNS

This is the cover of the CD "Chant: Music for the Soul," a collection of chants by the Cistercian monks of Stift Heiligenkreuz Abbey, a 12th-century monastery near Vienna, Austria. Their CD of Gregorian chants has become a phenomenal crossover hit topping pop charts around the world.

At first, some of the monks were reluctant to produce a CD of sacred music, but with assurances from Universal Music that the CD would promote Christian spirituality, the hesitant monks came onboard.

"Gregorian chant is an amazing musical style. It heals and brings one closer to one's brothers and to God," the priest said.

He said he was proud of his brother monks for "not getting caught up in this excitement."

"If any of us wanted money, we wouldn't have entered the monastery in the first place," he said. "None of the monks comes to me and asks how the sale of the CDs are going. If they were worried about such things, I would leave the monastery. That's not why we're here."

The monastery earns one euro (US\$1.45) per CD sold. In addition, the chants can't be used as part of a video game or grafted into pop music. The Heiligenkreuz monks will never tour or perform publicly, outside of their chapel.

"Money is important to the monastery but not to the monks," explained Father Wallner. "The church has preserved an ancient musical tradition. The oldest in Europe and perhaps the oldest in the world."

"More importantly, it is sacramentalized music; it is dedicated to God and is used to express his love for us. It's important for Christians and non-Christians to learn about this beautiful musical style," he said.

The music expresses "the inexpressible" and communicates "the uncommunicable," he added. "This music is for God and I believe that if people listen to it, they will be open."

The music the monks sing dates back more than a thousand years, and is "sung entirely in Latin, without accompaniment," Father Wallner said.

"These humble, simple melodies serve to purify the soul. It is a ladder into heaven. It is a means by which we can get back to our roots," he said.

A wild encounter



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Ann School in Charlotte and a representative of Wildlife Encounters hold a Burmese python at the school Nov. 4.

Wildlife Encounters showcases live animals and products from rainforests around the world and talks about their survival, history, geography, behaviors and about conservation education.

Wildlife Encounters brought several rainforest animals to St. Ann School, including a marmoset, lemur, monkey, an armadillo and roaches.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith through action? Do you have photos of a parish-, ministry- or school-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Environmental stewardship

Girl Scouts remove 100 pounds of trash from stream as part of project

CHARLOTTE — Girl Scout Troop 3112 of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte has adopted a section of Little Sugar Creek stream in Latta Park in Charlotte.

The Adopt-A-Stream program, sponsored by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, is a "hands-on" way for residents, businesses and organizations to help improve the water quality of local streams.

Kami Fagan, a troop committee member, suggested the project for the troop in 2007.

As part of a three-year commitment, the troop's 28 Scouts clean the section of the stream and its immediate surroundings twice a year.

Over the last year, they have removed more than 100 pounds of trash and debris.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is a sign indicating Girl Scout Troop 3112's participation in the Adopt-A-Stream program at Latta Park in Charlotte.

Becoming a Beta



COURTESY PHOTO

New members are inducted into the Junior Beta Club at St. Michael School in Gastonia Dec. 3. The club is part of the National Beta Club, a nonprofit educational youth organization for students in fifth- through 12th-grades. The club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, recognizes achievement and provides technological advantages. The club at St. Michael School currently has 22 members. Students are selected for the club if they are on the honor roll and are good citizens at the school and in the community. They must complete 10 hours of service projects annually. The club will participate in a state convention in Greensboro Feb. 16-17.

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'As one international family'

Catholic officials, organizations launch campaign for climate change

BY JONATHAN LUZMOORE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — Catholic Church officials from 38 countries have launched a campaign with more than 70 Catholic organizations to persuade the United Nations to meet the "moral obligation" of tackling climate change.

"Climate change is a reality today affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions in developing countries by exacerbating storms, droughts and natural disasters," said an appeal signed by 92 bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

"As a matter of equity and responsibility, those who have created the problem must pay for the solution. Economically developed nations have a moral obligation to tackle climate

change because of their disproportionate consumption of natural resources," it said.

The climate campaign and related appeal were launched by Caritas Internationalis, which represents 162 national Caritas church charities, and CIDSE, a Belgian-based alliance of 16 Catholic development agencies.

The campaign was introduced Dec. 7 at the cathedral in Poznan, Poland, at a Mass concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Grzegorz Balcerak of Poznan and Auxiliary Bishop Theotonius Gomes of Dhaka, president of Caritas Bangladesh.

Government representatives from around the world were meeting in Poznan Dec. 1-12 for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The religious leaders' appeal, titled "A Call for Climate Justice," said poor communities were affected the worst by climate change, but had "done (the) least to cause it."

It pledged Catholics worldwide would "stand in profound solidarity" with those suffering harsh effects.

"We are deeply concerned by the disproportionate impact human-induced climate change is having on poor and vulnerable people living in developing countries," it said.

"It is our moral obligation to take urgent action to tackle climate change and to do so in support of those most affected. We call on you to achieve a strong, binding and just global climate agreement to ensure the survival and

"It is our moral obligation to take urgent action to tackle climate change and to do so in support of those most affected."

— "A Call for Climate Justice"

well-being of all God's children," said the appeal, signed by 15 church leaders from Argentina and four from Nigeria, as well as Cardinals Rodolfo Quezada Toruno of Guatemala and Joseph Zen Ze-kium of Hong Kong.

Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, president of Pax Christi USA, and the president of the Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European Community, Bishop Adrianus van Luyn of Rotterdam, Netherlands, also were among the signers.

U.N. sources said their talks would help prepare a new global climate treaty, to be finalized in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

The treaty will be based on a 2007 plan — developed in Bali, Indonesia — under which developing countries agreed to take "nationally appropriate mitigation actions" against climate change if "supported and enabled by technology, finance and capacity-building" from developed countries.

However, they added that funding for mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries would be a crucial prerequisite for an agreement.

In their appeal, the Catholic leaders said every citizen had a responsibility "to promote and to protect the common good," as well as holding "governments to account for their actions."

They urged Catholics to follow calls by the late Pope John Paul II by "tackling climate change as one international family."

"Climate change is an issue of social justice and must be met in solidarity by stretching our collective perspective beyond the limitations of short-term interests to one that protects and promotes the common good of all," added the appeal.

"It is imperative these countries receive the economic and technical assistance they need to adapt to climate change and ensure better lives and livelihoods for their people," it said.

The president of CIDSE, Rene Grotenhuis, said industrialized countries had been responsible for 70 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions, adding that billions of dollars currently made available to ease financial-market pressures should not obscure the need to address climate change, which, if neglected, would exert a price "on a human and financial scale we cannot yet comprehend."

A CIDSE statement said Catholic member organizations would run public campaigns throughout 2009 encouraging postcards and online petitions urging governments to support a strong deal at the Copenhagen conference.

It added that CIDSE would relay demands to national leaders to ensure the "shared call for climate justice will keep pressure on international leaders at key moments."



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The road to joy

Making a U-turn on the dead-end street of consumerism

Posters in store windows offered \$25 coupons for every \$100 spent in the days leading up to the Thanksgiving weekend.

Advertisements were replete with buy-one-get-one-free proposals.

The news media had hourly stories on the bleak outlook for retail sales.

Then on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, pilgrims to one of the nation's thousands of temples of consumerism caused a human sacrifice.

Jdimytai Damour, a worker at a Wal-Mart store on Long Island, N.Y., opened the store doors at 5 a.m. that day.

An impatient crowd of some 2,000 was gathered outside for a "door buster." And indeed it was.

The mob crumpled a metal door frame, knocked Damour to the ground and trampled him.

He was pronounced dead within the hour after being taken to the hospital.

One witness described the frenzied shoppers as "savages."

"When they were saying that they had to leave, that an employee had been killed, people were yelling, 'I've been on line since yesterday morning,'" she said. "They kept on shopping."

Damour met his unhappy fate by coming between the savage shoppers and \$798 plasma televisions, \$28 vacuum cleaners and \$69 digital cameras.

Black Friday has become a holy day in the secular religion of consumerism for some time now, the day that retailers showed profitability — black ink — for the full year.

Consumerism is equated to patriotism as well. Recall the president of the United States in the months following the worst attack on American soil counseling citizens that the best thing they could do for normalcy and their country was to go shopping.

Consuming is also touted as a virtue.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



Warnings about deepening recession and impending depression are used as motivators to prod citizens to buy more.

Personal savings as a percent of income was 2.4 percent in October, up from 1 percent in September, further evidence that selfish and unpatriotic consumers may be recklessly saving rather than spending.

With no little sarcasm, the Vatican newspaper said consumers are being told "the infallible remedy for overcoming the risk of poverty caused by the economic crisis under way" is to "spend, consume and go into debt to keep the economy going."

What people are being told, the L'Osservatore Romano article said, "is that to overcome the crisis it is necessary to continue the same behavior that provoked it, that is consumption and indebtedness."

Some suffer the economic crisis due to factors beyond their control. Some find the irony of being prudent by saving only to see their savings eroded by a greed-infected stock market.

Some used the equity in homes for a worthwhile purpose such as paying college tuition. Others, however, imprudently risked their home ownership by falling prey to insistent messages to buy.

The risks of a consumer economy have not come without warning. There have been cautions for decades that an economy based on consumerism is built on a foundation of sand.

Pope Paul VI in 1967 linked heavy consumption to injustice and Pope John Paul II in 1991 critiqued "a style of life, which is presumed to be better when it is directed toward 'having' rather than 'being.'"

Pope Benedict XVI, in a World Youth Day address last August, chastised those who create "false models of happiness" to lead people down "dead-end streets of consumerism."

Christmas has always been a reminder to find joy by consuming less. This year that reminder comes from reality rather than a matter of choice.

Let us hope this year the reality of dead-end streets can be broadened to allow U-turns to choose the main road of joy.

Shopping days or praying days?

This Advent, we must prepare the way of the Lord

The countdown of shopping days until Christmas has already begun.

While this happens annually, with this year's financial recession the shopping centers and retailers have been trying to lure us into shopping more than ever.

At one store, I heard a familiar Christmas song playing but with an unusual twist: "O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, o come ye to — the name of the store!"

Apparently, the store wasn't expecting their faithful to head to Bethlehem but rather to the cash register.

While some of us may go to the real Bethlehem in Judea this year, the Advent season calls us all to go to the "Bethlehem" of our neighbor in need, to the Bethlehem of the lonely who have lost loved ones.

Advent calls us all to make the 30 days before Christmas praying days rather than shopping days.

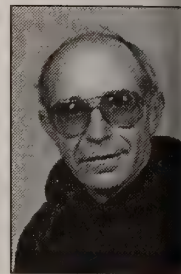
While the retailers are concerned about how much we shop (the more, the better), the church instead is concerned about how much time we spend in prayer (the more, the better).

We, the faithful, are called to prepare the highway to heaven. We learn this in the idiom of Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

This message was so important to the Israelites that it is quoted 600 years later by St. Mark the Evangelist (Mark 1:3).

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP.
GUEST COLUMNIST



Yet the message, like Mark's description of John the Baptist "clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist" as he fed on locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6), can be uncomfortable. It can take a little work to comprehend.

For me, the most powerful interpretation of Advent is the process of painting.

When it comes to painting something — a wall, a chair, etc. — the most important yet tedious part is not the application of paint but the preparation of the surface to be painted. Often the old paint must be removed; the surface must be sanded, scraped, cleaned before any actual painting can begin.

This Advent, we must not apply new paint if the old layer is still on.

We must pray, we must prepare, but the end result will be worth it.

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.



Good Samaritans

Percent of people who reported helping a stranger in the past month



Highly religious people are those who said religion is important in their daily lives and who had attended a religious service within the week prior to the survey.

Source: 2008 Gallup poll

©2008 CNS

Getting ready for his coming

Salvation depends on how we attend needs of poor, vulnerable

"When the Son of Man comes in glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. ...

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

These penetrating words recently proclaimed on the feast of Christ the King — the final Sunday of the church year — direct our attention to the most important final day: The second coming of Christ — the end of history and the last Judgment of the world.

If this Gospel reading doesn't wake us up, nothing will!

Here the disciples and all humanity are warned that our very salvation depends on how well we attend

to the needs of the poor, sick and vulnerable.

On that final day, Christ the King will not be impressed by our wealth, professional title or fame. Instead, Jesus will judge us on how well we loved everyone we could, especially those most in need near and far — born and unborn.

Now we find ourselves in Advent, that special liturgical season designed to help us prepare for the celebration of Christ's first coming.

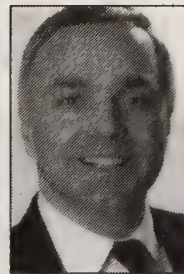
Taking on human nature as a poor homeless baby, Jesus right from the start revealed his deep concern for those who are down and out, a concern that would remain central throughout his earthly ministry — and central to how he will judge us.

Advent, which is the beginning of the church's new year, is the perfect time to make a fresh start in preparing for Christ's final coming. It will be a time we hope the Lord will say to us, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Therefore, let us commit ourselves

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



this Advent to doing everything we can to end the suffering of the world's 923 million hungry human beings, to provide clean water to the 1.1 billion people who have access only to dirty water, to welcome our nation's 12 million hardworking and undocumented strangers, and to support the goal of providing health insurance for the 49 million Americans who can't afford to get sick.

Please e-mail or call your two U.S. senators and your representative, urging them to make the needs of the hungry, the thirsty, the undocumented and the medically uninsured major priorities in the next Congress.

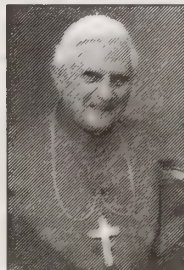
And then, kindly reach deep into your pockets and pull out a generous Christmas gift for the world's desperately poor.

When Jesus comes again, make sure you're on his right side to hear these wonderful words: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me!"

Faith comes from listening, having relationship with God, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faith does not happen with a solitary reading of Scripture, it comes from being in a relationship with God and listening to his word, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Faith is not a product of our thoughts and our reflections," the pope said Dec. 10 at his weekly general audience. "It is something new that we cannot invent but can only receive as a gift" that is made and given by God himself.

With an estimated 5,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on how the apostle contributed to the church's understanding of sacramental life.

"Faith doesn't come from reading but from listening. It is not just an inner experience but a relation" with someone who proclaims God's love and urges unity and communion in the truth, he said.

The Holy Spirit does not only touch an individual's heart, it also must manifest itself concretely in the world, he said.

"The Spirit must reunite us and truly create a community" out of the divisions and distances separating humankind, the pope said. Christ's Spirit serves to create a visible community with the proclamation of the word and the sacraments, especially baptism and the Eucharist. Christianity, like baptism, is passive, the pope said.

"No one can baptize himself; he needs someone else. No one can become a Christian by herself," he said.

This other who offers the gift of faith and of baptism is the community of believers — the church — which, in turn, is acting on God's behalf, he said.

The church "does not act on its own, following its own ideas and desires," he said. It passively accepts God's will because "only Christ can constitute the church. Christ is the true giver of the sacraments," he said.

St. Paul taught that baptism is more than a mere washing away of sin, it is death and resurrection into a new life in fullness with Christ, the pope said.

He said becoming a Christian is "a new existence, a rebirth, death and resurrection."

The sacrament of the Eucharist is Christ giving himself and his love to humanity so that a new world may be created, Pope Benedict said.

Christ unites himself equally with everyone who receives Communion, he said, making everyone "one bread, one body."

Advent: Season of joy

Turning to Jesus and Mary in difficult times results in happiness; confidence

Advent is the dawn; Christmas is the sunrise.

The shopping malls are already flooded with Christmas decorations, but the times are stark and business is slow. Is Advent really a season of joy?

Yes it is, as long as you remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season."

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, God entering our world as an infant, remember that he came to lead us out of darkness into his eternal light: "The Son of Man has come ... to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).

The sacred texts during the Sundays of Advent guide us along the way.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we focus on the virtue of hope. The Gospel for that day is taken from Luke 21:26-28, reminding us of the second coming of the Lord:

"People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

Jesus, therefore, is our hope in all

circumstances. Turn to him in faith!

On the second Sunday of Advent the focus is on light. "I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness" (John 12:46).

The Gospel on the Second Sunday is taken from Luke 3:3: John the Baptist "went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

The skeptic is filled with hopelessness. He says, "What good is religion, don't you see what a mess the world is in?" He does not see the light of Christ.

We are all called to repentance in order to be purified from our doubts and fears: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from ... the anxieties of daily life" (Luke 21:34).

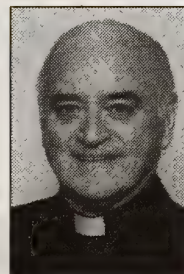
The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday ("Gaudete" means rejoice).

The liturgy reintroduces the notion of joy, and the Gospel of the day, Luke 3:18, ends with John the Baptist preaching "good news to the people."

In spite of your fears, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



at all" (Philippians 4:4-5).

The Gospel on the fourth Sunday of Advent is taken from the first Chapter of Luke, which tells the story of Jesus' birth. The spiritual surrender of Mary is our inspiration.

When the angel Gabriel announced that she was to be the mother of God, Mary's answer was, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Mary accepted hardship, trusting in God's power to save her.

The joy and surrender of Mary are two facets of one diamond.

Said Pope John Paul II, "In Mary, the joy of ancient Israel reaches its fullness; in Mary the happiness of the messianic times bursts forth unrestrainedly. ... The faithful are invited to take the Virgin Mother as a model ... becoming vigilant in prayer and joyful in praise."

Turn to Jesus and Mary if you are experiencing difficult times. "Do not be afraid," says the Lord. Lift up your heart with renewed confidence.

From darkness to light, sadness to joy



CNS PHOTO BY ANN AUBREY HANSON, THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The bell tower of St. Bartholomew Church, a mission church on the Rincon Indian Reservation in Rincon, Calif., and a burnt tree are seen after wildfires swept through San Diego County and other areas Oct. 21-23, 2007. The fires destroyed the church and a reported 65 homes, trailers and other buildings on the Rincon reservation.

Indian reservation's chapel, destroyed by '07 wildfires, to be rebuilt

BY DENNIS GRASSKA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

RINCON INDIAN RESERVATION, Calif. — A solitary bell tower, battered and damaged, stands alone in a barren, muddy field.

The tower is all that remains of St. Bartholomew Chapel, which served for decades as a place of worship and a center of community life for the Catholic residents of the Rincon Indian Reservation in the San Diego Diocese.

The bell tower still bears the scars of the October 2007 wildfire season, which claimed the rest of the chapel as well as the social hall that once stood beside it.

But an effort is under way to rebuild what was destroyed.

Edward Reed, 63, attended Mass at St. Bartholomew for more than 50 years. A church committee member, Reed still visits the site of the old chapel in the evenings.

He likes to sit near the bell tower and take a few moments for quiet meditation.

When Reed looks at the lonely tower standing in the empty lot, he still sees the church where he was baptized, where he received his first Communion and where he got married.

"I still see what was there," he said, "and I always will (for) the rest of my life."

For now, the old chapel lives on only in Reed's fond memories. But soon, he will no longer need to rely on nostalgia or imagination: Plans call for a new chapel to be constructed, bigger and better than before.

In October the community gathered for a groundbreaking and blessing of the construction site.

San Diego Bishop Robert H. Brom, who presided at the ceremony, contrasted the event's celebratory spirit with the "experience of darkness and sadness" during the 2007 wildfires.

"As we bless this space and as we break ground for the reconstruction of St. Bartholomew Chapel," the bishop said, "we're making room for Jesus in a temple that will be built of stone

and wood and plaster and whatever it takes to make a beautiful new St. Bartholomew Chapel."

"But more importantly," he added "in our hearts and in our lives, we must make room for Jesus ... so that again and again and again we can move from darkness to light, through sadness to joy until we celebrate in the eternal kingdom light eternal and joy everlasting."

According to the chapel committee chairman, George Arviso, the new structure will be double the size of the original, and its design takes inspiration from the tribe's spiritual and cultural traditions.

Almost immediately after the fire, the Catholic community at St. Bartholomew began discussing the rebuilding of its place of worship.

Insurance money provided the necessary start-up funds, while additional financial resources were provided by the Rincon tribal council.

A benefit golf tournament raised money to cover the purchase of interior furnishings and other liturgical necessities.

By all accounts, the history of St. Bartholomew Chapel dates back to the early years of the Rincon Indian Reservation, which was founded in September 1892 along the San Luis Rey River in northeastern San Diego County.

Some 100 to 125 residents of the reservation regularly attended Mass at the chapel. Visitors to Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort, which is owned and operated by the reservation, also worshipped there along with residents of other nearby reservations.

Reed said the chapel had been rebuilt once before in the 1930s after a vaguely remembered calamity.

Since the 2007 wildfires, Sunday Masses have been held in the local tribal hall.

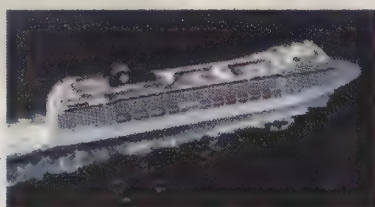
According to Reed, the old bell tower will be refurbished and incorporated into the southwest corner of the new chapel.

"In our Indian culture, we like to reminisce on old ways and old things," he said.

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CNS PHOTO BY ANN AUBREY HANSON, THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The inside of the destroyed St. Bartholomew Church, a mission church on the Rincon Indian Reservation in Rincon, Calif., is seen after wildfires swept through San Diego County and other areas Oct. 21-23, 2007.



Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

DECEMBER 19, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 8

Perspectives

Discovering the true meaning
of Christmas; welcoming the
stranger; living with loss

| PAGES 14-15

Spinning their wheels

Detroit cardinal urges
quick action on loans
or auto industry

BY ROBERT DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DETROIT — Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit emphasized the need for urgent government action to allocate at least enough money to help Detroit's automakers stay afloat until a more comprehensive assistance package can be worked out in the new year.

"People in households throughout southeast Michigan and all across the country are counting on our lawmakers and leaders to help stabilize the domestic auto industry," the cardinal said Dec. 16.

There was widespread anticipation President George W. Bush would announce a financial assistance package along the lines of the \$14 billion proposal that failed to win Senate approval Dec. 11.

See AUTO, page 12

CHRIST IS BORN!



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CONCEPTION ABBEY

The Nativity is depicted in a mural, painted by Benedictine monks in the late 1800s, titled "Birth of Jesus" in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo. Christians celebrate the birth of Christ Dec. 25.

In the light and love of Jesus

Christmas decorations
reminders of new life
from Christ, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The traditional decorations of Christmas are reminders that the light and love of Jesus Christ bring new life to all who wait in darkness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope spoke about Christmas trees as symbols of new life Dec. 12 when he met a delegation from Austria, which donated the Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square, and he spoke about Nativity scenes as reminders of God's love for humanity when he blessed figures of the baby Jesus

See CHRIST, page 5

MORE COVERAGE

Pages 4-7 | Churches, schools
celebrate Christmas
Pages 14-15 | Christmas columns

In the spirit of giving

Annual dinner
feeds and clothes
area homeless

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The annual Christmas dinner for the homeless at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte is no small feat.

Last year, more than 2,700 meals were given out to people

See DINNER, page 4

To protect a person's dignity

Vatican document warns certain new
research violates moral principles

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A new Vatican document warned that certain recent developments in stem-cell research, gene therapy and embryonic experimentation violate moral principles and reflect an attempt by man to "take the place of his Creator."

The latest advances raise serious questions of moral complicity for researchers and other biotech professionals, who have a duty to refuse to use biological material obtained by unethical means, the document said.

See DIGNITY, page 8



CNS BY KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

A pregnant pro-life demonstrator stands outside the Supreme Court in Washington in this Oct. 6 file photo. The Vatican has issued a new instruction on bioethics meant to protect society's weakest and most defenseless.

Culture Watch

Book on theologian's writings;
ABC to air Christmas special

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Patroness of Americas

Gatherings in diocese honor
Our Lady of Guadalupe

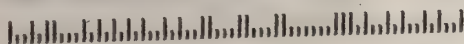
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Growing the spirit

Tree growers share
Christmas by donating trees

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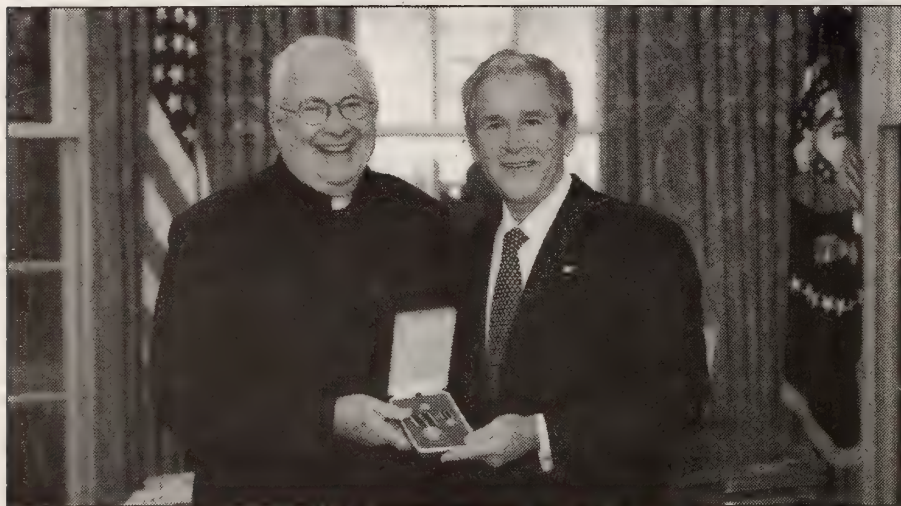
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

UPSTANDING CATHOLIC CITIZENS



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS GREENBERG, COURTESY WHITE HOUSE

U.S. President George W. Bush stands with Jesuit Father John Foley, founder of the Cristo Rey Network, after receiving the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House Dec. 10. Father Foley was among 24 people who were honored for their good works.

Two priests, several other Catholics honored with presidential medal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two priests were among more than a half-dozen Catholics in a group of 24 people awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal Dec. 10 by President George W. Bush.

University of Notre Dame professor Father Timothy Scully, a Holy Cross priest who directs the Indiana university's Institute for Educational Initiatives, and Jesuit Father John Foley, executive chairman of the Cristo Rey Network of inner-city schools, along with philanthropists, educators, researchers, the librarian of Congress and actor Gary Sinise, received the second-highest civilian honor in a closed ceremony in the Oval Office.

The citation for Father Scully released by the White House noted that he "has committed his life to strengthening communities through faith-based education that prepares individuals for a lifetime of achievement, service and compassion."

It said he has "developed innovative ways to support under-resourced schools."

Father Foley was cited for successfully reaching some of the country's most vulnerable youths "and instilling in them a love of learning. Through his spiritual leadership of a faith-based education system that partners with the community, he has provided opportunities for young people to achieve their dreams," the citation said.

Sinise, known for his roles as the lead investigator in the TV series "CSI: NY" and as Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan in the film "Forrest Gump," was cited as a humanitarian and a patriot.

"Working alongside our military and reaching out a compassionate hand to Iraqi children, he is helping a society once brutalized by a tyrant to rebuild and realize the great blessings of liberty," said the citation. "He has also traveled the world to show America's gratitude to

our service members."

In 2005, Hollywood-based Catholics in Media Associates honored Sinise with its Humanitarian Award for the same type of work. At that ceremony, Sinise thanked his wife, actress Moira Harris, for leading the family to embrace their Catholic faith and inspiring him to commit to service projects.

Dr. Donald Landry, a physician and organic chemist who chairs the department of medicine at Columbia University in New York, was cited by the White House as "a man of science and a man of faith" who has "demonstrated that there are responsible and ethical ways to advance stem-cell research."

Another Catholic, Robert George, professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University in New Jersey, was honored for his work in constitutional law and Western political theory. The citation said George, a member of the President's Council on Bioethics "has brought forceful analytic clarity to the study of America's ideals and institutions."

Retired Admiral James Watkins, a Knight of Malta and the father of a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, was cited by the president as exemplifying "the American ideals of courage, character and ingenuity. He has brought great skill and determination to all of his duties and demonstrated a patriot's devotion to our country."

Raymond Chambers, founder of the Amelior Foundation in Newark, N.J., where he graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory School, was honored for aiding at-risk youths and fighting malaria in Africa.

Teach for America founder Wendy Kopp was cited because "through her determined efforts, she has created opportunities for new teachers to help disadvantaged children realize their potential."

U.S. group calls Iraq one of the worst violators of religious freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. watchdog group monitoring international religious freedom said Iraq should be named one of the world's worst violators of religious freedom.

In a report released Dec. 16, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said Iraq deserved the designation "in light of the ongoing, severe abuses of religious freedom and the Iraqi government's toleration of these abuses, particularly abuses against Iraq's smallest vulnerable religious minorities."

The commission said "the situation is especially dire for Iraq's smallest religious minorities," including Chaldean Catholics and other Christians.

"These groups do not have militia or tribal structures to protect them and do not receive adequate official protection," it said. "Their members continue to experience targeted violence and to flee to other areas within Iraq or other

countries, where the minorities represent a disproportionately high percentage among Iraqi refugees," it said.

The commission, an independent body, makes its recommendations to the president, secretary of state and Congress. Four commissioners out of nine voting members dissented from the decision to name Iraq as a country of particular concern, saying that government inaction or complicity with such abuses had not been established sufficiently.

This report said that although violence has lessened since May 2007, "there has been continued targeted violence" against religious minorities.

The commission urged President-elect Barack Obama's administration to ensure that all Iraqis are protected, specifically by making certain that the Kurdistan regional government upholds minority rights in northern Iraq. Many minority groups are concentrated in northern Iraq.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The date of the *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., has been changed to Jan. 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

CHARLOTTE — A bilingual Christmas program, "Las Posadas," will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A long-standing Mexican tradition, "Las Posadas" is a re-enactment of the days of preparation and journey to Bethlehem that Joseph and Mary underwent before the birth of Jesus. Come for an evening filled with prayer, beautiful scenes, wonderful music and the spirit of Christmas. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — There will be a *Men's Retreat* guided by Msgr. John McSweeney at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call the church office (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will have a *Polish-*

language Mass on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available before Mass starting at 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — An *Advent prayer service and exposition* will take place Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. Join the parish family for evening prayer and to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There will also be a brief reflection on an Advent theme. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

CHARLOTTE — In an effort to assist the poor and homeless in the community, St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., will host its *annual Christmas Dinner for the Homeless* Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help support the dinner by donating cold weather clothing items such as socks, gloves, hats and blankets. Items can be dropped off at the parish Family Life Center during the week or in the school gym Dec. 20 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.), Dec. 21 (2-4 p.m.), Dec. 22-23 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and Dec. 24 (all day). Volunteers are also needed to work the event on Christmas Day. Volunteers must sign up prior to Christmas in order to assist with the dinner. For more information or to sign-up, e-mail StPatrickCharlotte@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — A *Montagnard Christmas celebration* will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. All Montagnards of North Carolina are invited to attend. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — "Understanding the Issues that Impact Jewish-Christian Relations," the ninth annual Kennedy Lecture, will be presented by Dr. Edward Kessler, executive director of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations

THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

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DECEMBER 19, 2008
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 8

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Church opposes considering homosexuality a crime, spokesman says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican spokesman said the Catholic Church is clearly against considering homosexuality a crime, but is wary of international declarations that use the issue to promote a political agenda based on sexual orientation.

The spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, made the comment Dec. 11 in response to questions at a Vatican press conference.

In early December, a leading Vatican diplomat drew criticism from gay-rights groups when he said the Vatican opposed a proposed U.N. declaration to endorse the universal decriminalization of homosexuality.

The diplomat, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, said such a declaration might be used to put pressure on or discriminate against countries that do not recognize same-sex marriage.

Father Lombardi, said the Vatican

was not conducting a battle against the United Nations or weakening its opposition to discrimination against homosexuals, which is clearly stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The church's position stems from its respect for the rights and dignity of every person, and explicitly excludes "any unjust discrimination on the basis of homosexuality," Father Lombardi said.

The spokesman noted that Archbishop Migliore's comments were made in response to a question about a draft declaration that had yet to be presented at the United Nations or in any public forum.

He said Archbishop Migliore's point was that it's one thing to argue against discrimination and criminalization regarding homosexuality, but another to contend that anyone who makes a distinction based on sexual orientation is considered an adversary of human rights.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — A *Mass for the Holy Innocents* will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 128 North Fulton St., Saturday, Jan. 3 at 8 a.m. The Mass will be dedicated to all parents who are grieving the loss of their child through death, miscarriage or stillbirth. A breakfast will follow. For more information, call the church office at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church in Clemmons is hosting a new *Homeschool Enrichment Program* for Catholic homeschooling families starting in January. The program will allow Catholic families to come together for the rosary, liturgy and other activities. Enrichment classes are free and are available for students in pre-kindergarten through middle school. For more info, call Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or go online to www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

are required. For more information, call (704) 332-2901 ext.12 or e-mail office@stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — "Women Who Walked Through Fire in Faith," a series on women evangelizers of the early church, will be presented by Barbara Reagan at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — March and pray for an end to abortion during the *March for Life Charlotte* Jan. 16. Marchers should gather at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and Church Sts. across from the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 11 a.m. The march will proceed to Trade and Tryon Sts. at 12 p.m. and continue to the court house at 401 W. Trade St., where participants will pray a rosary and chaplet of divine mercy. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral will host evening vespers to commemorate the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the church and occupies a privileged place toward the end of the day. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start an eight-week program on Deuteronomy beginning Jan. 6. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — *Eucharistic adoration* will be held each Tuesday during Advent from 5 to 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. There will be no planned program, just quiet time for personal prayer and adoration. For more information, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 22 (4 p.m.)
Christmas party for Pastoral Center employees
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Dec. 24 (12 a.m.)
Christmas midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 29 (6 p.m.)
Christmas party for priests
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Jan. 10 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for aspirants of deacon formation program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Vatican mum on newspaper report of pope's visit to Holy Land May 8-15

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has not confirmed the dates for a papal trip to the Holy Land, but an Italian newspaper reported Pope Benedict XVI will fly to Jordan May 8, on to Israel May 11 and arrive back in Italy before sundown May 15.

Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi told Catholic News Service Dec. 16, "The Vatican will announce its program when it feels the moment is right and it has all the elements necessary to do so."

For now, he said he would confirm only that planning is underway and meetings are being held with the necessary government and church officials.

The office of Israeli President Shimon Peres issued a statement Dec. 10 saying a "Vatican delegation responsible for preparing Pope Benedict XVI's official visits around the world" had met that day in Jerusalem with presidential advisers to discuss plans for the possible papal visit.

The Italian newspaper, *Il Foglio*, reported Dec. 16 that Pope Benedict's trip would follow an itinerary similar to that used by Pope John Paul II in

2000: visiting the Memorial of Moses Monastery on Mount Nebo at Madaba, Jordan, meeting Jordanian government officials and celebrating Mass for Jordanian Catholics before flying to Tel Aviv, Israel.

In Israel, it said, the pope will celebrate Mass in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem, as well as meet with officials from the Israeli and Palestinian governments.

Il Foglio also said Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Vatican nuncio to Israel and the Palestinian territories, was to meet with Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, to discuss a possible papal visit to the memorial, which is a normal part of state visits to Israel.

The Vatican has urged officials at the memorial to remove from a permanent display a photo caption stating that Pope Pius XII did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their slaughter of the Jews.

Il Foglio said the pope would leave the Holy Land May 15 aboard the Israeli airline El Al, landing in Italy before sundown when the Jewish Sabbath begins.

Spreading Christmas



CNS PHOTO BY MAHFOUZ ABU TURK, REUTERS

A nun shops for Christmas decorations in East Jerusalem Dec. 14.

Pope chooses themes for next three WYDs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the themes for the next three World Youth Days in order to help young Catholics better prepare for the international gathering in 2011.

The Vatican published the themes for 2009-2011 in a Dec. 16 press release.

The next international gathering will be held August 16-21, 2011, in Madrid, Spain. The theme is "Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith." The quotation is taken from the second chapter

of St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians.

"We have set our hope on the living God" is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict for the 2009 celebrations, which will be held on the diocesan level.

In 2010, also on the diocesan level, young people will focus on the theme "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

The pope chose the themes "to help build a spiritual itinerary that will lead to the international WYD," said the release.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DUE TO CHRISTMAS, THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD WILL NOT PUBLISH FRIDAY, DEC. 26. OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE JAN. 2, 2009.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Teaming up for turkey giveaway



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis helps load turkeys onto a truck outside the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Dec. 16. The turkeys will be delivered to 500 families in the Charlotte area.

NBPA and CSS give away 500 turkeys to families in need

CHARLOTTE — The National Basketball Players Association and Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte have teamed up to deliver meals to 500 families in the Charlotte area this holiday season.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis joined Elizabeth Thurbee, director of CSS, and Geri King, director of the CSS Charlotte Regional Office, outside the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Dec. 16 to oversee the distribution of the turkeys to area agencies that serve the needy.

The NBPA is working with Catholic Charities USA, an Alexandria, Va.-based network of social services organizations, and Feed The Children, a Christian nonprofit relief organization, to deliver meals to 30,000 families in cities with NBA franchises across the country.

In Charlotte, the turkeys were distributed to three Catholic churches — Our Lady of Consolation, Our

Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of the Assumption; CSS; diocesan Hispanic ministry; Loaves and Fishes; Urban Ministry Center; Friendship Trays (Meals-on-Wheels in Charlotte-Mecklenburg); and St. Peter Episcopal Church soup kitchen.

"The NBA has been a significant entertainment presence in the Charlotte region for many years. It is a blessing to all the people of our community that the players have made this generous gift," said Bishop Jugis.

"This food will be distributed to families of many different faiths because God is concerned with the needs of all people," he said.

"We too are grateful for this holiday donation," said Thurbee. "CSS operates a food pantry and, like other agencies serving the needy, it has seen an enormous increase in the number of people asking for help."

Annual dinner feeds and clothes area homeless

DINNER, from page 1

in need. Of those meals, 900 were served in the St. Patrick School cafeteria while the other 1,800 were delivered to shut-ins.

Although the food tends to take center stage, there is another element of the event as well — throughout the year, clothing is collected to give to the guests at the Christmas dinner.

The clothing project is conducted primarily by students from the confirmation class at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Trisha Stewart, confirmation coordinator at St. Gabriel Church, began the undertaking six years ago as a service project for the confirmation candidates.

Since then it has turned into a yearly tradition and has garnered support from other members of the parish community.

"Confirmation is all about doing service to others," said Stewart, who starts handing out trash bags for the clothing collection during the parents' information meeting in the spring.

"I really talk up this service," she said.

This year 125 students from the St. Gabriel confirmation class are participating in the clothing drive.

On Dec. 20, all of the clothing will be delivered to the St. Patrick School gym. The students will come in shifts to sort through the clothes and arrange them on tables and racks around the perimeter of the gym.

"I would love for them to come and see the people who come in," said Stewart. "I don't think the kids realize the impact that they are having."

"Trisha and St. Gabriel's cannot be topped in what they do," said Pete Brehmer, parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral and chairman of the Christmas dinner.

About 70 percent of the clothing comes from St. Gabriel Church, according to Brehmer. Fifteen percent comes from



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers sort through clothing in the St. Patrick School gymnasium in preparation for the 2007 Christmas dinner for the homeless.

parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral and 15 percent is donated from businesses.

In addition to the collected clothing, 200 hats, gloves, scarves and blankets are purchased with donated funds. Fifty of those blankets are given to the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte.

"That way we know it gets to the right people," said Brehmer.

The rest of the items are given out at the dinner.

Preparation for the dinner begins each September with the formation of a planning commission.

Last year, approximately 750 volunteers were involved with the dinner in some way from start to finish. This year Brehmer is expecting no fewer.

One of the biggest challenges is "just making sure that everybody has a job to do," said Brehmer.

Volunteer times on Christmas day are broken down into three two-and-a-half hour shifts and trained supervisors are on hand to oversee the various departments.

"This year with the economy there are so many people hurting, but people are still giving all they can possibly give," said Brehmer.

"It's one chance that we have yearly to give rather than get," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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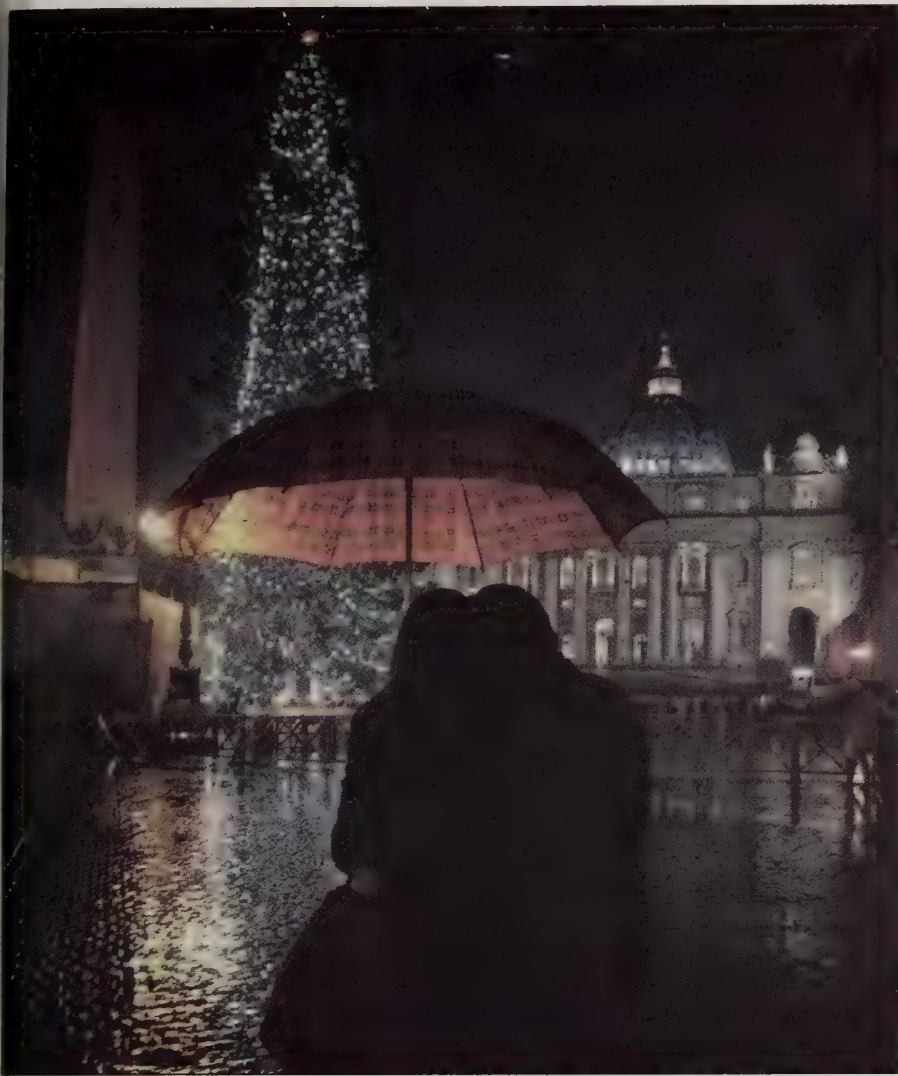
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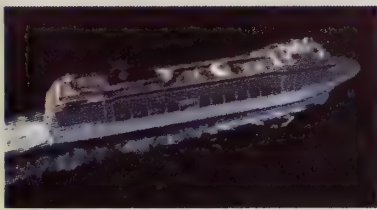
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



CNS PHOTO BY EMANUELA DE MEDO

A couple stands in the rain in front of the Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 13.

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Christmas decorations a reminder of new life from Christ, pope says

CHRIST, from page 1

Dec. 14 before reciting the Angelus.

"Before the Nativity scene, we experience Christian joy, contemplating in the face of the newborn Jesus the face of the God who drew near to us out of love," the pope said during his Angelus address.

The day's reading from St. Paul, he said, called on Christians to rejoice because the Lord is near.

Although the Catholic Church believes in the second coming of Christ, there is no need for "alarmism," he said.

"The nearness of God is not a question of space or time, but a question of love: Love is drawing near," he said.

In the special blessing for the Nativity scene figures, which Roman children brought to St. Peter's Square for the occasion, the pope prayed that the figurines would be signs of the presence of Jesus' love in people's homes and families.

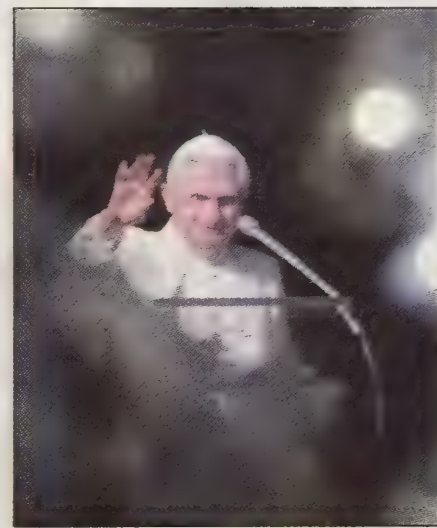
"Open our hearts so that we can receive Jesus in joy, that we always can do what he asks of us and that we can see him in all those who need our love," the pope prayed.

In his Dec. 12 meeting with the Austrian pilgrims — including the bishop of Sankt Polten, the governor of Lower Austria and the mayor of Gutenstein — the pope noted that the 120-year-old, 108-foot-tall spruce was the tallest to ever stand in the center of St. Peter's Square.

"In the coming weeks, the Christmas tree will give joy to Romans and to many pilgrims from every part of the world who will come to the Eternal City," the pope said. "I will be able to see it from my window and will enjoy it."

"The nearness of God is not a question of space or time, but a question of love."

— Pope Benedict XVI



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves from the window of his private apartment as he is framed by the Christmas tree during his Angelus address in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 14.

"Its soaring form, its green and the lights on its branches are signs of life," the pope said.

The tree is a reminder that "Christ, the son of God, brings new hope and new splendor to the dark, cold and unredeemed world into which he was born," he said.

In the midst of a rainstorm Dec. 13, hundreds of people joined Vatican officials and the Austrian dignitaries for the tree-lighting ceremony, which ended with the singing of "O Tannebaum."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Students raise their candy canes for a blessing at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Dec. 5. The candy cane blessing is a long-time school tradition started by eighth-grade teacher Sandra McMonagle. The candy cane, in the shape of a shepherd's staff, is used at the school as a reminder to students of Jesus' call to serve others.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Gwiazdzinski, dressed as Santa Claus, gives a gift to Amy, a resident of Holy Angels in Belmont, during a Christmas party for residents sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 770 Dec. 7. The Knights have hosted the party and distributed gifts to the residents for more than 20 years. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1956, Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation that provides a residence and programs for children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tiara, Carmen and Thea Belle, confirmation students at St. William Church in Murphy, sit in front of the Christmas tree they decorated for Father George Kloster, pastor, Dec. 10. It is an annual tradition at the church for confirmation students to decorate the pastor's tree in the rectory.

All wrapped up



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders from Jessica Armstrong's class at St. Matthew School in Charlotte are pictured with their teacher, guidance counselor and parent volunteers after wrapping gifts for underprivileged students and their families at Irwin Avenue Elementary School Dec. 16.

Catholic school sends gifts to students in need

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —Students at St. Matthew School in Charlotte have been busy collecting and wrapping presents for underprivileged students and their families at a public elementary school.

Each of the 25 classes at St. Matthew School provided gifts for two families at Irwin Avenue Elementary School, a school with one of the highest-rated levels of student poverty in Charlotte, according to Casey Corser, a parent volunteer.

Deb Gough, guidance counselor at St. Matthew School, started the project several years ago.

"Our principal's wife was the assistant principal at Irwin at the time," said Gough.

"We knew that it was a school that needed help," she said.

The families at Irwin Avenue Elementary School are recommended by faculty and staff based on their needs. A number of the students and their families are homeless.

The families make wish lists that are sent to the classes at St. Matthew School.

All of the gifts are wrapped in school by students along with help from teachers and parent volunteers.

This year, Father Patrick Toole,

parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church, blessed the gifts before they were sent to the families.

On Dec. 18, St. Matthew School student council members loaded the gifts on a bus to be delivered to Irwin Avenue Elementary School.

Then, adult volunteers from St. Matthew School personally distributed the gifts to the families.

"When the parents are standing there crying, we all start to cry," she Gough. "It is an amazing project."

St. Peter Church in Charlotte also has a ministry designated to helping the school. The Irwin Elementary Faith Partnership establishes partnerships to promote student academic achievement and create safe environments by identifying needs.

The ministry is currently conducting a book drive for the school. The goal is to collect one book for every student. Books will be presented to the students at the school the first week in January.

WANT TO HELP?

To contribute to the Irwin Avenue Elementary School book drive, bring books to the St. Peter Church office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (704) 332-2901.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten through third-grade students and members of the school choir at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro perform "Candy Cane Lane: A Recipe for Life" in the school gym Dec. 12 and 16. The Christmas musical emphasized the importance of Christ's birth.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Kenneth Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, and Matthew Phillips and Theresa Phillips, parishioners, hold a box of food Dec. 16 to be distributed through the church's food pantry. The food pantry gave away 50 boxes of food filled with items donated by parishioners and Second Harvest Food Bank.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro are pictured Dec. 15 with gifts they purchased for American Hebrew Academy's first annual toy drive for needy children in the Triad — from toddlers to teens. The students raised more than \$400 to purchase the gifts for the academy, which hopes to collect 1,000 gifts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Lehtinen, director of Southern Park Music School in Charlotte, plays "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" for students of St. Patrick School in Charlotte Dec. 10. Lehtinen performed a lunchtime concert for the students, which was sponsored by the cultural committee of the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

'Las Posadas' held at St. Ann Church

CHARLOTTE — The Nativity story was recently celebrated by nearly 100 people in Charlotte.

"Las Posadas" was held at St. Ann Church in Charlotte Dec. 13.

The multicultural Advent celebration, sponsored by the church's Hispanic ministry, included a procession, prayer, fellowship and food from Latin America.

Traditionally, the celebration of "posada" — which means lodging in Spanish — commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem.

Typically a nine-day celebration Dec. 16-24 with origins in Mexico, posadas are an annual tradition for many Catholic Mexicans and some other Latin Americans.



PHOTO BY JORGE GOMEZ

Children dressed as Joseph, Mary and angels lead a procession during a Las Posadas event at St. Ann Church in Charlotte Dec. 13.

Visits from St. Nick



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, dresses as St. Nicholas during a Dec. 5 school assembly at St. Mark School to celebrate the Dec. 6 feast of St. Nicholas of Bari, a fourth century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor and a pastor noted for his charity. St. Nicholas also is the patron saint of children and has been popularized as Santa Claus. Each student left a shoe outside the classrooms and returned to find candy canes and prayer cards inside.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten and first-grade students at St. Michael School in Gastonia show off the treats from St. Nicholas Dec. 5. The students left shoes in the hallway and later found candy bars in them. St. Nicholas of Bari, whose feast day is Dec. 6, was a fourth century bishop noted for his charity. He also is the patron saint of children and has been popularized as Santa Claus.

Vatican document warns certain new research violates moral principles

DIGNITY, from page 1

The 32-page instruction, titled "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person"), was issued Dec. 12 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Pope Benedict XVI personally approved the text and ordered its publication.

The document represented an updating of the congregation's 1987 instruction, "Donum Vitae" ("The Gift of Life"), which rejected in vitro fertilization, human cloning, surrogate motherhood and nontherapeutic experiments with human embryos.

The new instruction expanded on those teachings or presented new ones in the following areas:

— Stem-cell research. The document recognized that stem cells have opened new prospects in regenerative medicine.

It said it is morally acceptable to take stem cells when they do no serious harm to the subject, as is generally the case when tissues are taken from an adult organism, from the umbilical cord at the time of birth or from fetuses that have died from natural causes.

On the other hand, it said, it is always "gravely illicit" to take stem cells from a living human embryo, because it invariably causes the death of the embryo.

— The morning-after pill and other anti-implantation methods. The document said an embryo is constituted after fertilization of the egg, and drugs and techniques that prevent its implantation in the uterine wall are morally illicit because they intend to cause an abortion — even if they don't actually cause an abortion every time they are used.

Anyone who seeks to prevent the implantation of an embryo that may have been conceived, and who therefore requests or prescribes such a drug, generally intends abortion, it said. The use of such anti-implantation methods "falls within the sin of abortion" and is gravely immoral; when there is certainty that an abortion has resulted, there also are serious canon law penalties, it said.

— Gene therapy. It said genetic engineering that aims to correct genetic defects by intervening on nonreproductive cells, a process called somatic-cell gene therapy, is in principle morally acceptable. The effects in this case are limited to a single person.

But is it not permissible to make genetic modifications that seek to transmit the effects to the subject's offspring, called germ-line cell therapy, because of potential harm to the progeny, the document said.

It said that "in the present state of research" germ-line cell therapy in all its forms is morally illicit.

— Embryo manipulation and "adoption." The document repeated earlier condemnations of the in vitro creation of human embryos, a technique

often used in fertility treatment, first because it separates procreation from the conjugal act in marriage, and second because in practice unused embryos are often discarded, thus violating the principle that "the human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception."

Freezing such embryos is itself a violation of ethics, because it exposes them to a serious risk of death or harm, the document said. Most of such embryos remain "orphans," it said.

Despite the good intentions of people who have suggested a form of "prenatal adoption" to allow unused frozen embryos to be born, such a proposal would be subject to medical, psychological and legal problems, it said.

— Freezing of human eggs. The freezing of oocytes, immature human egg cells, has been introduced as part of an in vitro fertilization technique, in which only those eggs to be transferred to the mother's body are fertilized.

The document said the freezing of oocytes for this purpose is morally unacceptable.

— Human-animal hybrid cloning. The document rejected as immoral recent efforts to use animal eggs to reprogram human cells in order to extract embryonic stem cells from the resulting embryos.

These efforts represent a grave offense against human dignity by mixing animal and human genetic elements capable of "disrupting the specific identity of man," it said. In addition, use of the resulting stem cells would expose humans to unacceptable risks, it said.

'Biological material'

In a section titled "The use of human 'biological material' of illicit origin," the document examined the ethical questions posed for people who, in research or the production of vaccines or other products, deal with cell lines that are the result of a procedure the church considers immoral.

In cases where there is a direct connection, such as embryonic experimentation that inevitably involves the killing of the human embryos, such acts "always constitute a grave moral disorder," it said.

It said the situation was more complex when a researcher works with cell lines produced apart from his research center or obtained commercially.

The document rejected the "criterion of independence," as formulated by some ethics committees, which argues that using such biological material would be ethically permissible as long as there is a clear separation between those causing the death of embryos, for example, and those doing the research.

The document said it was necessary to distance oneself in one's ordinary professional activities from the injustice perpetrated by others, even when immoral actions are legal, in order not to give the impression of "tacit acceptance of actions which are gravely unjust."

"Therefore, it needs to be stated that there is a duty to refuse to use such



CNS PHOTO BY SANDY HUFFAKER

Embryologist Ric Ross removes a vial of frozen embryos from a storage tank at the Smotrich IVF Clinic in La Jolla, Calif., in this 2007 file photo. The new Vatican document "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person") warns that certain recent developments in stem-cell research, gene therapy and embryonic experimentation violate moral principles and reflect an attempt by man to "take the place of his Creator."

'biological material' even when there is no close connection between the researcher and the actions of those who performed the artificial fertilization or the abortion, or when there was not prior agreement with the centers in which the artificial fertilization took place," it said.

In the wider framework, it added, there are differing degrees of responsibility, and grave reasons may in some cases justify the use of such "biological material."

For example, it said, the danger to the health of children could permit parents to legitimately use a vaccine that was developed using cell lines obtained illicitly. In such a case, it noted, the parents have no voice in the decision over how the vaccines are made.

At the same time, it said, people should ask their health care systems to make other types of vaccines available.

Protecting the defenseless

The instruction repeated earlier Vatican condemnations of human cloning, whether done to produce embryos for stem cells or to define the genetic identity of an individual person, which the document called "a form of biological slavery."

The document said couples need to be aware that techniques such as pre-implantation diagnosis, which is used in artificial fertilization and leads to the destruction of embryos suspected of defects, reflects a growing "eugenic mentality."

It cited an increasing number of

cases in which couples with no fertility problems are using artificial means of procreation in order to engage in the genetic selection of their offspring.

The document closed with an appeal to view the church's teachings not as a series of "no's" but as an effort to protect society's weakest and most defenseless against forms of unjust discrimination and oppression.

"There are those who say that the moral teaching of the church contains too many prohibitions. In reality, however, her teaching is based on the recognition and promotion of all the gifts that the Creator has bestowed on man: such as life, knowledge, freedom and love," it said.

"Behind every no in the difficult task of discerning between good and evil, there shines a great yes to the recognition of the dignity and inalienable value of every single and unique human being called into existence," it said.

"Dignitas Personae" drew on a number of sources, in particular "Donum Vitae" and Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life").

It also cited the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI, notably his address on stem cells to the Pontifical Academy for Life in 2006.

The Vatican said the new document, as a papally approved instruction of a doctrinal nature, falls under the category of the "ordinary magisterium," which is the church's teaching authority, and is to be received by Catholics "with the religious assent of their spirit."

Officials say Vatican document not an attack on modern science

Instruction is defense of human life's sacred nature

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican's new instruction setting forth moral principles in biotechnology should not be seen as a negative attack on modern science but as a defense of the sacred nature of human life, Vatican officials said.

"This is in no way an attempt to say 'halt' to the commitment of science in favor of life," Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said in a statement.

"On the contrary, the document offers a series of guideposts so that science is truly at the service of life and not of death, or of the arbitrary and dangerous manipulation of the human person," he said.

The instruction, "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person"), was issued Dec. 12 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It presents teachings — and in many cases moral prohibitions — in areas such as stem-cell research, human cloning, gene therapy and embryo experimentation.

In general, the document rejects any procedure that separates procreation from the conjugal act in marriage or presents risks to human life from the moment of conception.

"The church believes it must be courageous and decisive in affirming these principles. The continuity of the development of the human being from the moment of conception does not allow for uncertainty in the defense of the embryo and his dignity," Father Lombardi said.

"This is a position in favor of small and weak human beings, who have no

voice and who today, in fact, do not find many who speak in their favor," he said.

Dominican Father Augustine Di Noia, undersecretary of the doctrinal congregation, told Vatican Radio that it would be wrong to see the new document as a series of "no's" against prohibited services.

As Pope Benedict XVI has noted many times, these "no's" are derived from a much larger "yes" to human life and human dignity, he said.

Father Di Noia said the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a "yes" to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a "yes" to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a "yes" to the value of every human being.

"Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death," he said.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, predicted that the document would provoke various reactions. Some will ignore it, some will deride it and others will label it another church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.

But many, he said, will share the Vatican's concern and analysis, and others will be prompted by its teachings to formulate questions of their own regarding the morality of recent scientific developments.



CNS ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY THOMPSON

An illustration depicts an early stage human embryo following the union of an egg cell and a sperm cell. The new Vatican document "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person") warns that certain recent developments in stem-cell research, gene therapy and embryonic experimentation violate moral principles and reflect an attempt by man to "take the place of his Creator."

An embryo must be treated as a person, says bioethics document

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican's latest document on bioethics forcefully stated that although there is no certainty about when a human being receives a soul, an embryo is to be treated as a person from the moment of conception.

That means all human embryos deserve recognition of fundamental human rights, including the inviolable right to life, the document said.

This ethical principle conforms to natural moral law and is also supported by solid scientific evidence about the initial stages of human life, said the instruction, "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person"), issued Dec. 12 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Debate over the precise timing of

ensoulment has been raised by some who argue that the destruction of an early-stage embryo might not be the same as killing an innocent human person.

The Vatican document said that although the presence of the spiritual soul cannot be observed experimentally, scientific knowledge about the human embryo supports "continuity in development of a human being" from conception onward.

"Indeed, the reality of the human being for the entire span of life, both before and after birth, does not allow us to posit either a change in nature or a gradation in moral value, since it possesses full anthropological and ethical status," the document said.

"The human embryo has therefore from the very beginning the dignity proper to a person," it said.

The instruction builds on the teaching expressed in a similar 1987 Vatican instruction on procreation, which noted increasing scientific evidence about personal identity from the earliest moments of life and raised the question: "How could a human individual not be a human person?"

This argument leaves the burden of proof on those who hold that an embryo is not a person, a point made in 1987 by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — now Pope Benedict XVI — when he was head of the doctrinal congregation.

At that time, Cardinal Ratzinger said determining whether an embryo is a person with a soul was a question for philosophy, not science. On the basis of scientific evidence, however, there is "at least a good probability that it is," he said.

He said science shows there is no "qualitative leap" in the life of a child in the period from conception to birth.

"Already in the zygote (fertilized egg) there is a genetically defined individual," he said.

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A great 20th century ethicist

Von Hildebrand project aims to make theologian's writings better known

BY ANGELO STAGNARO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Religious leaders, historians and theologians gathered at a reception in New York recently to honor the writings of German theologian and philosopher Dietrich von Hildebrand.

The reception marked the third anniversary of the Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project, which has been translating von Hildebrand's philosophical works into English.

Von Hildebrand, who died in 1977, left a teaching post in Germany to escape the Nazis. He taught philosophy at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York from 1942 until his retirement in 1960.

In the years after the Second Vatican Council, he became a prominent defender of papal authority.

Despite his importance to Catholic philosophical and theological thought, von Hildebrand has largely been forgotten by both scholars and laypeople, according to members of the legacy project.

During the Nov. 12 reception, Father Benedict Groeschel, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, noted how von Hildebrand has been praised by Pope Benedict XVI and previous popes.

He said Pope Pius XII referred to von Hildebrand as a "20th-century doctor of the church" and Pope John Paul II called him "one of the great ethicists of the 20th century."

Father Groeschel said Pope Benedict had lavished praise for the German theologian, saying, "When at some time in the future the intellectual history of the Catholic Church in the 20th century is written, the name of Dietrich von Hildebrand will be most prominent among the figures of our time."

Alice von Hildebrand, the theologian's widow, told those at the reception that when Adolf Hitler rose to power in 1933 her husband quit his



CNS PHOTO BY GEORGE BALTUS, COURTESY OF DIETRICH VON HILDEBRAND LEGACY PROJECT

German theologian and philosopher Dietrich von Hildebrand is pictured in a 1939 photo. Religious leaders, historians and theologians attended a Nov. 12 reception in New York to honor the writings of von Hildebrand.

university position and left Germany because he refused to accept the Nazi takeover of his country.

When he arrived in Vienna, Austria, he founded an anti-Nazi journal in which he was outspoken in warning readers about Hitler.

"He was always one step ahead of the Nazis," his wife said. "Fleeing Austria after the Nazis annexed it, he moved to Switzerland, France and then to Portugal, Brazil and then to New York City."

Brian Finnerty, communication director of Opus Dei, said at the reception that hearing Alice von Hildebrand speak was "like touching history."

"She captivated us with story after story, painting a picture of a great man deeply in love with beauty and truth. She is a courageous woman keeping alive the memory of a courageous man," he said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 28, 2008

Dec. 28, *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
- 2) Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Peace, salvation come to us through Jesus

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Recently, as I was holding my 3-month-old goddaughter in my arms, I began thinking about the life ahead of her. She has wonderful parents and a huge community of people ready to support her as she grows.

Gazing into this child's eyes as they are just starting to focus, I wondered what she sees and what those eyes will see in the future. There are so many possibilities ahead for her:

Will she be a girly girl or more of a tomboy? Will she be a dancer or a soccer player, or both? What subjects in school will be her favorites? What will she grow up to be? Who will she marry?

The questions are endless.

With each new life that comes into the world, the opportunities and options they have are never-ending. Every baby brought to the church for dedication is full of potential.

This was never truer than when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple.

In the story from this week's Gospel, we hear of a man named Simeon who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Anointed One from the Lord. When he sees Jesus, he sees ultimate possibility: He sees salvation.

I cannot imagine what that must have been like. Simeon was in on the biggest of secret plans. He knew that the Savior was coming, and he was one of the first to hold salvation in his arms.

His words shout loudly of faith and triumph: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, ... for my eyes have seen your salvation, ... a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

Simeon, upon seeing Jesus, knew the possibility he held just as I did when I held my goddaughter at her baptism. I knew that, graced with the waters of baptism, the doors to heaven are unlocked for her.

On this feast of the Holy Family we learn from Mary and Joseph that when we dedicate our children to the Lord, we open up for them unlimited possibility, for they are now incorporated into the vision Simeon had of the salvation of the world and the glory of God's people.

Questions:

How confidently can you say, "Master, you may let your servant go in peace"? If you are a godparent, what has that experience been like for you?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 21-27

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent), 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; **Tuesday (St. John of Kanty)**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Thursday (Nativity of the Lord)**, Isaiah 9:1-6, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14; **Friday (St. Stephen)**, Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Saturday (St. John)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 28-JAN. 3

Sunday (The Holy Family), Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40; **Monday (St. Thomas Becket)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Tuesday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40; **Wednesday (St. Sylvester I)**, 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Thursday (Mary, Mother of God)**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Friday (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzen)**, 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Saturday (Most Holy Name of Jesus)**, 1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 4-10

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (St. John Neumann)**, 1 John 3:22-4:6; **Tuesday (Blessed André Bessette)**, 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; **Wednesday**, 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; **Thursday**, 1 John 4:19-5:4, Luke 4:14-22; **Friday**, 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; **Saturday**, 1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30.



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Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of January:

Rev. Vincent Erb	2005
Rev. Msgr. Eugene H. Livelsberger	1987
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Newman	1981
Rev. Arthur J. Racette	1975
Rev. Tom Stott	2005



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

San Francisco chapel is setting for national TV Christmas special

S.C. monastery featured in hourlong program

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A one-hour television Christmas special set at the Porziuncola Chapel Shrine at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco was taped Dec. 9 and 10 and was to be distributed to ABC affiliates nationally for broadcast at their discretion Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Msgr. Harry Schlitt hosts the program. Vicar for administration and moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Msgr. Schlitt is a well-known broadcast media veteran.

The hourlong program was produced by the Indiana-based New Group Media for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Digital Media with a grant from the USCCB's Catholic Communication Campaign.

The noncommercial program, directed by Chris Salvador of New Group Media, features a Billy Budd Films claymation re-enactment of Jesus' birth narrated by Christopher Plummer, Christmas carols sung at the shrine and a video segment on the Trappist Monastery

of Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina, which houses 350 creches from around the world.

The chapel, which has been declared an archdiocesan shrine in its own right, is a rock-for-rock, stone-for-stone, fresco-for-fresco replica of St. Francis of Assisi's tiny Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy.

Built on a scale of 78 percent of the original to accommodate available space, the structure features duplications of a 14th-century fresco, of original doors and windows, and of other details of its Italian forerunner.

The original Porziuncola was restored in the 13th century by St. Francis and his followers, and today draws thousands of pilgrims annually. It is contained in a nave of the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli near Assisi.

A featured aspect of the Porziuncola in San Francisco is the encased display of a stone used more than eight centuries ago in the repair of the original Porziuncola, perhaps by St. Francis himself.

Australian Jesuit to head Asia's UCA News, sees growth potential

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Bringing a Catholic Internet news service within the grasp of millions in Asia who use hand-held devices is a logical step for the Asian church news agency UCA News, said its next executive director, Jesuit Father Michael Kelly.

The appointment of Father Kelly, an Australian, is seen as a move to foster telecommunications partnerships that will extend UCA News to Catholics who are young, techno-literate and mobile, and to Asian Catholic communities in other countries.

For the last 10 years Father Kelly has overseen the expansion of Church Resources in Australia. He will continue his role as Church Resources' executive director when he takes on his new role at UCA News in 2009.

UCA News, founded in 1979, has grown into one of the world's largest news services. With its main editorial offices based in Bangkok, Thailand,

UCA News employs 40 staff and 250 news stringers throughout Asia.

UCA News disseminates Catholic news and opinions via its Web page, www.ucanews.com. It offers a daily news service in English and supplemental news services in Chinese, Indonesian, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese. It offers a photo service, an online newsletter, special series, Asian church documents and online journalism training.

Father Kelly, whose experience in journalism and publishing dates to the 1970s, said he hopes to bring some of his expertise from Church Resources to UCA News.

"Asia is the fastest growing Web market in the world," Father Kelly told Catholic News Service.

He said Korea has the highest broadband usage in the world and the church is growing exponentially there. But India "has more Catholics than the whole population of Australia and it is a leader in Internet use and software development," he said.

On the Internet, "content aggregation" is a news service's lifeblood, Father Kelly said.

He said UCA News "needs to become medium agnostic and channel agnostic — radio, text, interactive platforms and things the Web makes possible and transforms. It's a broad palette of possibilities."

He said the agency's Web potential is unlimited, not tied to geography.

"All over the world are guest workers whose homes are in Asia. Expatriate Filipinos and Koreans, for example, are the largest subgroups in the United States, and UCA News should speak to them, too. It is really a matter of access," he said.

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Cardinal urges quick action on loans for auto industry

AUTO, from page 1

By midday Dec. 17 no announcement had been made by the White House.

Such a package was expected to reallocate funds previously approved by Congress as part of the Troubled Assets Relief Program, designed to bail out banking and financial firms, or previously authorized to assist the automakers' switch to more environmentally friendly products. Conditions expected to be attached to the loans included mandatory restructuring and acceptance of a "car czar" to oversee fulfillment of the requirements.

Cardinal Maida acknowledged that changes lay ahead for the Big Three automakers, but urged they be decided through a collaborative process.

"Whatever restructuring is done within the auto companies, their suppliers and the ancillary businesses, it needs to involve all the stakeholders. The situation is urgent and the process needs to provide reasonable, negotiated timelines for all of the parties involved," he said.

The cardinal expressed confidence business and labor leaders in metro Detroit could be counted on "to uphold their part of the bargain and to do the right thing."

"All others involved in these complicated negotiations, especially those in Washington, should follow suit for the sake of our community, our country and beyond," he added.

Cardinal Maida had joined with other local religious leaders — Christian, Jewish and Muslim — Dec. 4 in urging the federal government to extend a financial aid package to the domestic automakers.

"This is a time to stand in solidarity with all who are suffering loss of jobs or homes, and all those who are anxious about what will happen in the future to the automobile industry in metro Detroit," he said at the time.

The square-mile General Motors Tech Center is within the boundaries of St. Sylvester Church in suburban Warren and parishioners include many current and former employees there and at other nearby plants and offices.

Its pastor, Father Gary Schulte, said "fear and confusion" were widespread

among his parishioners.

"Many have lost their jobs, and those who are employed are fearful they may lose their jobs," he said.

He noted that bankruptcy for the automakers had not been ruled out if the federal financial aid package somehow failed to come through.

"But," he added, "even if the loans do go through, they wonder whether they will have a job, because it has been acknowledged that more plant closures will be needed."

Msgr. Anthony Tocco, pastor of St. Hugo of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills, said prayers for the unemployed and underemployed had become a regular part of the prayer of the faithful at Mass in recent weeks.

Many high-level auto executives, including former Chrysler head Lee Iacocca and former General Motors chiefs Thomas Murphy and Richard Gerstenberg, have been members of St. Hugo. And although none of the current Big Three CEOs is a member, many parishioners are — or were — employed by the automakers, their suppliers or dealers.

"We're praying a whole lot, and — along with prayer — we're adjusting our budget. Our collection is down substantially, and we're trying to cut (expenses) by 20 to 30 percent," he said.

Some parishioners have lost their jobs, and a number of families — especially some of the younger ones who had children in the parish school — have moved out of state to find work. But other parishioners who own restaurants or other businesses are also experiencing the fallout from the auto industry's downtown.

Richard Genthe, president of Dick Genthe Chevrolet in Southgate, said the domestic auto industry already has been restructuring, and added that if automakers get a "bridge loan" they'll continue the progress made over the past three years and accelerate the pace of other planned changes.

Genthe, a member of St. Mary Student Church in Ann Arbor, said automakers and their dealers have been adjusting to consumer demand by changing the mix of cars and trucks available. He also said financing for buyers has improved because a consortium of Midwestern credit unions has stepped in to fill the gap created when many banks restricted their lending.

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Gather at parking lot across from the Catholic Pastoral Center, W. Palmer and S. Church St. Questions? marchforlifecharlotte.org

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March for Life/Raleigh — Saturday, January 17

Call 1-800-392-6275 or visit: ncrtl.org.

March for Life/Washington, D.C. —

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Our Lady of Guadalupe



COURTESY PHOTO

Approximately 1,500 people take part in a procession in Concord Dec. 7 to honor the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Gatherings honor patroness of Americas

CHARLOTTE — People from around the Diocese of Charlotte took part in celebrations to honor the patroness of the Americas.

Approximately 6,000 people gathered for a Mass at Cricket Arena in Charlotte to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12. The Mass was celebrated by Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte, and concelebrated by Vincentian Father Joe Elsi, parochial vicar.

A procession of about 1,500 people marked the third annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at St. James the Greater Church in Concord Dec. 7.

The celebration recalls the miraculous apparitions of the brown-skinned Virgin Mary to the Mexican Indian Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in December 1531. She left her image on his "tilma," or cloak.

For 477 years her image has been a symbol of unity, peace, compassion and hope for people around the world. Her apparitions also are credited with the conversion to Catholicism of more than 8 million Aztec Indians.

Juan Diego was canonized in 2002.

"The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego generated the conversion of Mexico, Central and South America to Catholicism," said Jorge Gómiz, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the diocese's Charlotte Vicariate.

"Indeed, the Blessed Virgin Mary entered the very life stream of Latin



COURTESY PHOTO BY JORGE GOMIZ

Men carry an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a celebration honoring the patroness of the Americas at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Dec. 12.

America and became an inextricable part of Mexican life and a central figure to the history of Mexico itself," he said.

Led by the Knights of Columbus, the procession to St. James the Greater Church included a float carrying the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, traditional Mexican music and dancing, and recitation of the rosary led by Redemptorist Father Dimas Arce.

After the procession, Mass was celebrated in Spanish by Redemptorist Father Joseph Dionne, pastor. The celebration continued afterward with food, music and dancing in the parish hall.

"The celebration was a marvelous testimony of faith added to the parish life by our parishioners from Mexico and other Latin American countries," said Joseph Kuntz, a member of parish Hispanic Anglo Committee for Unity.

A Mass and festival were celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12.

The event, organized by the parish Hispanic ministry, also included a procession, traditional Mexican music and recitation of the rosary.

"A wonderful time of fellowship was shared," said Gómiz.



COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus are pictured with an icon of Our Lady of Charity at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia Dec. 14.

Icon's tour comes to Gastonia church

GASTONIA — An icon of Our Lady of Charity that was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI is currently on display at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia.

The framed print is one of three icons currently traveling throughout North Carolina as part of the yearlong Marian Hour of Prayer program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

A Knights honor guard presented the icon at Mass Dec. 14, where it was blessed by Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church.

The icon will spend the week in the church. It had been hosted at other churches in the Diocese of Charlotte earlier in the year.

The visit gives parishioners and students of St. Michael School an opportunity to view, learn about and pray before the icon, said John O'Daly, a fourth degree Knight with the William Gaston Assembly 2531.

The apparition of Our Lady of Charity

took place in Cuba around the year 1600 when three boys from the area now known as El Cobre were sent to gather salt to preserve the town's meat supply.

As the boys made their way across a bay, they encountered a violent storm. When the storm calmed they saw something floating in the water, a wooden board carrying a statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus.

On the board was an inscription, "Yo soy la Virgen de la Caridad" ("I am the Virgin of Charity"). After that, a shrine was erected in her honor and devotion to Our Lady of Charity spread throughout Cuba.

WHAT IS AN ICON?

Icons are sacred images signifying Christ, who is glorified in them. They typically represent Jesus, but also may depict images of Mary, the mother of God, or saints. Icons express the same Gospel message in images that Scripture communicates by words.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Luis Osorio, parochial vicar, and Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, are pictured with St. Gabriel School students after a bilingual school Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12. Students pictured (from left) are Morgan Spangler, Katie Dozzi, Gabe DiNorre, James Sullivan, Nick Scibelli, Thomas Mataconis, Rhinannon Batchelor and Maya Roselli.



COURTESY PHOTO

People gather before an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a celebration at Cricket Arena in Charlotte Dec. 12.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Facing Christmas after a loved one dies

Love can conquer pain of losing someone

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows that holidays, especially, tend to bring back the sorrow in deeper ways. But what we also learn is that the sorrow at these times is different.

It is no longer drenched in pain. What becomes more magnified is the love that never dies.

Recently I received a book that underscores how love endures. "An Advent of Understanding: Facing the First Christmas After the Death of a Loved One" was written by Mary Gay Moore after her beloved husband died.

She wrote:

"The pain of grief following the loss of a loved one makes the brightness of the Christmas season seem like a painful paradox. ... How do we face punch and cookies, gift exchanges, dinner parties or even carolers who assure us that a 'turkey and some mistletoe help to make the season bright' when our hearts are broken?"

But as Moore faced a new Christmas, she focused not on the death but the life she shared with her husband.

Her wise words resonated with me, having lost three sons of my own.

"We need to remember all that God has given us, even though we have lost our great love," Moore said.

"It takes real effort to avoid the tendency to be petulant, and to avoid 'if only' thoughts. Instead we must focus on the years we did have together, the joy, the memories, the fun, the love.

"Whether six years or 60 years, it was a blessed time sweetened by God's many graces and preserved forever in our hearts and dreams."

I too learned that — thanks be to God! — our love can indeed conquer the pain of losing a loved one. But we need to be aware of some things.

First, sometimes friends become distant when you are grieving because they don't know how to deal with your situation.

Have empathy for the pain and confusion they feel too.

Allow those who have not abandoned you to stay in your life. They want to help you with your hard work of living with grief.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



Expect that you may have mood swings. While anger is part of your grief, you have control over how much sadness will rule your life.

I remember a story about a little girl who was with a friend and came home later than she was supposed to.

When her mother asked her why the delay, she said she was "helping Jane. Her doll broke."

Her mother asked, "Did you help her fix it?"

The child replied, "No, I helped her cry."

There is great love in that answer.

We should tell our stories. This is a way of affirming the life of the loved one who has gone to be with God.

Here is one of my stories that you may or may not believe, but it happened.

Two Christmases ago, at the end of dinner, I was still at the table with my two daughters and two daughters-in-law. We were talking about my deceased son Peter, smiling over some of our remembered stories.

My son Frank was fixing a game table in the living room, which was behind the dining room where we were. My son Paul was in the family room with my young grandchildren.

Suddenly we heard "Mom" in a good male voice.

I turned toward Frank and said, "Yeah, Frank, what do you want?"

He said, "Mom, I heard that too, but it wasn't me."

And it wasn't Paul in the faraway room with noisy, sweet children.

I believe it was Peter, giving us a love story for Christmas.

To welcome the stranger

Parallels to the experience of Joseph and Mary on the first Christmas Eve

The rejection Joseph and Mary experienced on that first Christmas Eve has many parallels in the United States today.

It's sad to see because, as Ron Suskind wrote recently in the New York Times Sunday Magazine, the "transforming promise of the nation, after all, is the idea of welcoming the stranger, the outcast to a place of limitless possibility — a place where each of us might discover our best self, be comfortable in our skin and find a home."

Incidents of rejection in America today generally break down into two categories.

The first, characterized by evil intent, is motivated by racial or ethnic prejudice, as a recent incident on Long Island demonstrates. After drinking a few beers, seven young men decided to beat up "a Mexican."

On a street in Patchogue, they found Marcelo Lucero, 37, an Ecuadorian immigrant who had lived and worked in the United States for 16 years. Surrounding him, they taunted and punched him.

Then one of them, 17 years old, stabbed him fatally in the chest.

The other category is more like the inaction of the innkeepers in Bethlehem on the first Christmas Eve.

These are respectable people who for one reason or other can't help.

U.S. hospitals, the Times reported recently, repatriate many sick or injured immigrants who cannot pay their bills. This is particularly true in Arizona where funding is scarce and antipathy rampant against immigrants.

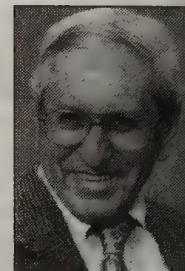
Antonio Torres, 19, a farmworker, suffered catastrophic injuries in an auto accident in Arizona last June that left him comatose and connected to a ventilator at St. Joseph Hospital in Phoenix.

After a few days, a social worker asked the parents, Jesus and Gloria Torres, to allow the hospital to unplug the ventilator. They said no.

So because Torres had no health insurance, the hospital packed him in an ambulance and deported him to Mexico. After a four-hour journey to a hospital in Mexicali and still in a coma, Torres languished in the emergency

Seeking Life

MOISES SANDOVAL
CNS COLUMNIST



room for days.

St. Joseph Hospital "repatriates" about eight uninsured patients a month. Sister Margaret McBride, a hospital vice president, told the Times, "We are trying to be good stewards of the resources we have."

Not all of those deported by area hospitals are in the United States illegally. Born at University Medical Center in Tucson with Down syndrome and a heart problem, Elliott Bustamante is therefore a U.S. citizen, but the hospital attempted, unsuccessfully, to transfer him to Mexico.

To note, Torres is also a legal immigrant and so are his parents.

The social worker had told his parents there was no hope, but this is a story of hope fulfilled.

With help from their church, the Jehovah's Witnesses, they succeeded in getting the city-owned hospital in El Centro, Calif., to admit their son.

"This was a kid who came to this country legally, worked here legally and had an accident," a hospital official said. "For God's sake, don't we take care of our folk?"

Still in a coma, Torres arrived in El Centro in septic shock, caused by widespread infection.

But after 18 days he awakened, and soon afterward, the hospital transferred him to an intensive rehabilitation program in San Diego, which discharged him at summer's end.

Although still undergoing therapy, he can talk and walk with the aid of a cane.

"We were not going to let our son die," his father said. "And look at him now."

It's going to be a lovely Christmas at the Torres home.



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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One very special Christmas Eve

Hardships endured make for lasting memories

It was Christmas Eve years ago, and the snow was falling in big, beautiful flakes just the way snow falls on cue in the Hollywood Christmas movies when the climax nears and everything is working out perfectly.

But as I took a solitary walk through the neighborhood, my tears mingled with the snowdrops and fell to the unplowed pavement.

Nothing seemed perfect to me, even as a late Alaskan afternoon was becoming darker and the bright lights from all the houses were twinkling on in the silver dusk.

My thoughts often wander to that Christmas Eve because this is the first Christmas since my mother's death, and that was the last Christmas I spent with her.

I'm from the Midwest, my husband from the East Coast, and we ended up in Alaska. This made Christmas with family difficult.

When there were just two of us, it wasn't so hard, waiting in gridlocked airports and delivering presents crushed in suitcases.

But then came a baby, and although we ventured "home" for the holidays once after that, it gradually became apparent that when baby made three, that journey was arduous.

It was so far, so costly, so weather-dependent, so chaotic that family get-

togethers became summer events, and we began to build our holiday traditions with Alaskan friends and our own growing tribe.

Of course, we always extended an invitation to any brave relative who didn't mind the long journey, the flight delays and the barely five hours of dim sunlight we could promise for Christmas.

And one Christmas, my mother and brother agreed to come. We were thrilled. There would be cookies, friends, parties and Christmas Eve Mass together.

I don't know whether they brought the bug with them or whether they were exposed to it by my one child who invariably caught something at the holidays — another reason we avoided Christmas travel.

But Mom and my brother got sick quickly. We're not talking about the sniffles or a low-grade fever.

We're speaking of sprawling on the couch in abject misery, of huddling in blankets with the chills.

My brother, the hardest hit, was diagnosed with pneumonia. My mother valiantly roused herself to attend Christmas Eve Mass.

And so I found myself that Christmas Eve trying my mightiest to maintain a cheerful holiday spirit for everyone's sake, offering warm drinks in festive glasses to wash

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



down the Tylenol.

But at a certain point on that snowy afternoon, I slipped out of the house and had a good cry. It just wasn't fair, I thought. It wasn't the ideal Christmas I had planned.

The Gospel story relates a far from ideal situation that first Christmas. Poverty, plans that went awry so badly that there wasn't even room at the inn, no female relatives in sight to support Mary's labor — it's an odd story to tell about the birth of a king.

But that's the Gospel theme, an upside-down kind of story that debunks all the world's wisdom, that says God's power lies in weakness, that the poor are God's special people, that resurrection can only follow death, that love is the measure.

It's bittersweet to look back at that Christmas Eve years ago. But the disappointment is overshadowed now by the beaming smile I remember my mother bestowing on my kids and me as we sat at Mass, she all dressed up but still feverish.

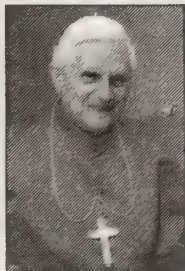
She loved us so much.

And if I have any belief in the Christmas message at all, I know that in the end that's the only thing that matters.

Economic crisis can reveal true meaning of Christmas, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year's economic crisis could help people rediscover the true meaning of Christmas and the values of life, love and charity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

After the "consumerist and materialistic scales have been shed, Christmas can then become an occasion to accept as a personal gift the message of hope that comes from the mystery of Christ's birth," he said at his general audience Dec. 17.

The pope dedicated the talk at his last general audience of the year to the importance and meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

At the end of the audience, the pope encouraged people to create a Nativity scene in their homes, saying the tradition is "a simple and eloquent way to remember Jesus who, becoming man, has come to dwell among us."

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Where's Jesus?

It takes little effort to find Christ at Christmas

As we were getting the Nativity set out for Christmas, my 3-year-old asked me, "Daddy, where's the baby Jesus?"

My first reaction was, "He's hiding!" And later, as I reflected on that conversation, it dawned on me that Jesus still "hides" today — not in a stable in Bethlehem, but in the faces of the poor, the lonely and the neglected of our society.

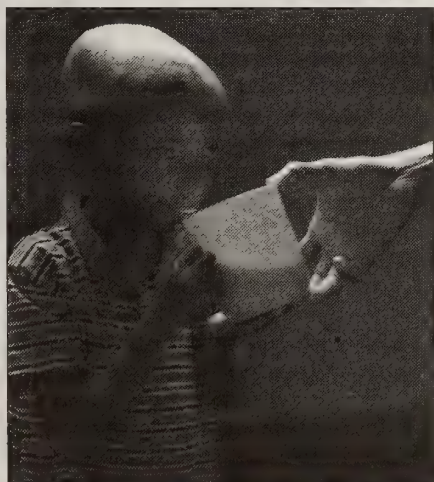
There has been a lot of talk recently about how bad the economy is, and how people are losing their jobs, homes and sense of material security. It has given me a deeper appreciation for how much my family truly has — a roof over our heads, jobs and food on our table.

An increasing number of unfortunate people don't have these things, and Jesus is hiding in them right before our eyes.

Jesus made it clear for us in Matthew: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).

The shepherds needed an angel to tell them where to find the Christ child, but we don't need an angel to tell us where to find Jesus this Christmas. All we need is to open our eyes to those around us.

The Salvation Army volunteer



ringing the bell outside of the grocery store — there's Jesus. The man enslaved by alcoholism or drug addiction who is holding the "HUNGRY, PLEASE HELP" sign — there he is again.

St. Francis of Assisi, who embraced poverty voluntarily as a way of life, said, "The poor don't need us, but we need the poor to meet the Christ who suffers in them face to face." Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a great champion of the poor, committed her life to

Guest Column

RICO DE SILVA
GUEST COLUMNIST



ministering to the needs of the "poorest of the poor."

While most of us can't sell everything we have, give it to the poor and join a religious order, we can take Mother Teresa's advice to heart and "do little things with great love."

We could volunteer to help out at a soup kitchen. We could buy a sandwich and drink for the guy on the street corner with the "HUNGRY" sign. We could drop a couple of bucks in the Salvation Army's bucket, and offer a thank you smile to the bell-ringer at the same time.

If we try to make an effort to comfort the "hidden Jesus" this Christmas, we'll be able to hear clearly the angels in Heaven singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will" (Lk. 2:14).

De Silva is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we commence the Christmas novena of Advent by contemplating the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies in the coming of the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary in the stable of Bethlehem.

Christmas speaks to everyone; it celebrates the gift of life — often fragile or endangered — and the fulfillment of our deepest hopes for a world renewed.

The present economic crisis, causing so much suffering, can however help us to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas, and to welcome into our hearts the hope brought by God's coming among us as man.

The word became flesh to offer humanity the salvation, which can only be received as a gracious gift from God. The same word by whom the universe was made, the word which gives all creation its ultimate meaning, has come to dwell among us: he now speaks to us, he reveals the deepest meaning of our life on earth, and he guides us to the Love which is our fulfillment.

In the Christ child, God humbly knocks on the doors of our hearts and asks us freely to accept his love, his truth, his life.

As Christmas approaches, let us rekindle our hope in God's promises and, in humility and simplicity, welcome the light, joy and peace which the Savior brings to us and to our world.



CNS PHOTO BY DICK MEYER, COMPASS

Dan Burroughs, a junior at Menasha High School in Menasha, Wis., and Sebastian Paul, 7, who attends Franklin Elementary School in Oshkosh, carry a Christmas tree Nov. 23 from St. Patrick Church in Menasha. The church annually sells about 500 Christmas trees as a fundraiser for needy families.

Growing the Christmas spirit

Tree growers share Christmas by donating trees to churches, the needy

BY JAYE ALDERSON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

OSHKOSH, Wis. — Evergreens have long been associated with the Christmas season. They offer the fresh scent of nature indoors in the midst of winter and symbolize the promise of eternal life.

For Wisconsin Christmas tree growers, the season provides not only the bulk of their livelihood, but also the chance to share their faith.

"It's historical to have a fresh Christmas tree," said Dick Wojcik, who co-owns Wojcik's Christmas Tree Farm in Pulaski with his son, David.

"There is nothing like the fresh odor of a new Christmas tree in our living room," he said.

After teaching biology for 36 years, Wojcik started planting Christmas trees in 1988 as a retirement activity.

"I'm an applied biologist now," Wojcik said. "We think the trees are environmentally friendly, remove carbon dioxide from the air, provide resting places for birds and for other wildlife to live, and they're recyclable."

"A (fake) tree bought from the store is an oil product, and that has to decompose in some landfill," he added.

His farm is a place where people can come and cut their own tree, or have the Wojciks do it for them. Wojcik said the parklike setting offers a fun family opportunity.

Wojcik, a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Pulaski, donates trees to a yearly drive for armed forces personnel in Wisconsin.

Tom Happersett, owner of Happs' Homegrown Christmas Trees in Neshkoro, started working for a tree grower when he was 14. He grew to love the business and eventually started his own.

"I guess there's nothing I'd rather do than grow Christmas trees," Happersett said. "I really enjoy it. I love the outside and watching trees grow. It's creating something."

"It takes anywhere from eight to 10

years to grow a tree and get it to market. And it's very challenging," he said. "You have to shape them with a knife to get the Christmas tree shape, and it's all hand labor. It's kind of like life. You get what you put into it."

Happersett sells trees wholesale in many Midwest outlets, and he has a retail spot in Orlando, Fla., where he has sold for 33 years. He donates trees to organizations such as local churches and the Salvation Army in Orlando, and also to individuals who are unable to afford a tree.

"I think it's something (when) you're giving back to somebody," he said. "I feel that as long as I have the tree, I'm more than happy to donate it."

Sister Pat Flanagan, coordinator for Hispanic ministry for the Green Bay Diocese, serves the Hispanic community in Wautoma and several counties surrounding it. She said Happersett's tree donations to the parish and to area Hispanic families are a blessing.

"The Hispanics have a great devotion to the infant Savior, and they all celebrate this feast with a lot of enthusiasm," said Sister Flanagan, a Sister of the Sorrowful Mother.

"The tree is important because it's a symbol of the time of the Nativity, a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus," she said.

St. Patrick Church in Menasha runs a yearly tree sale as a fundraiser and has bought its trees for a decade from Bruce Niedermeier of ANR Tree Farm in Wautoma. He donates several trees and all the boughs parish volunteers can pack into their vehicles to help parishioners who can't afford a tree.

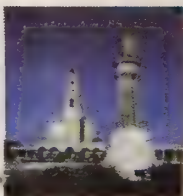
Joyce Naps, stewardship coordinator at St. Patrick Church, has overseen the parish's Christmas tree sale for the past 10 years. The sale is not about raising money as much as it is about building community, Naps said.

For people who come to look at trees but don't think they can afford one, St. Patrick Church gives them one.

"It's our way to share Christmas," Naps said.

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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 9

'A powerful connection'

Obama to be sworn in
with Bible Lincoln used
at first inauguration

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — When President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in Jan. 20 as the 44th president of the United States, he will take the oath of office with his hand placed on the same Bible Abraham Lincoln used at his 1861 inauguration.

The use of this particular Bible by the first black man to be elected president of the United States is considered significant because it was used to swear in an American leader credited with ending slavery in the country more than a century ago.

The Obama transition team Dec. 23 announced its intention to use the Lincoln Bible, which also has a Catholic connection, since the man who administered the oath of office to the nation's 16th president was the first

See BIBLE, page 4

2008: A year of highs and lows



CNS PHOTO BY LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

A Wall Street sign is seen outside the New York Stock Exchange Sept. 30, 2008. The global economic crisis was among the top religious news stories of 2008, according to a poll by Catholic News Service.

Elections, pope visit, economic crisis top stories of 2008

WASHINGTON (CNS)

— The election of the first African-American president and controversy surrounding the role of Catholic voters in the U.S. campaign topped the religious news stories of 2008, and Pope Benedict XVI and President-elect Barack Obama were the top newsmakers, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The global economic crisis took second place among the 31 news stories on the ballot. Pope Benedict's six-day visit to the United States in April came in third.

Most first-place votes on the newsmakers list went to either Obama or Pope Benedict, with the pontiff edging out the president-elect by a small margin. Catholic voters were a distant third.

For a roundup of the top religious stories of 2008, see pages 5-7.

2008 a year of growth, blessings for Diocese of Charlotte

New Catholic sections
of cemeteries among
the highlights

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte experienced many significant highlights throughout 2008.

Last year in the diocese, two men were ordained to the priesthood; the first deacons

See DIOCESE, page 8



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Moira Gill, a junior at Charlotte Catholic High School, lifts bags of food to be given to a family at Double Oaks Pre-Kindergarten and Family Resource Center in Charlotte Dec. 19. Through the volunteer project known as Operation Santa's Helpers, food, clothing and toys were distributed to more than 300 families in need this Christmas.

Students play Santa for a cause

Volunteer effort helps families at Christmas

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Fifteen students from Charlotte Catholic High School spent the first Saturday of their Christmas break delivering food, clothing and toys to families in need.

Working as volunteers with Operation Santa's Helpers, the students personally distributed the goods to more than 100

families at Double Oaks Pre-Kindergarten and Family Resource Center in Charlotte.

Operation Santa's Helpers was started 18 years ago by Bob Bowler, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Bowler had been volunteering with the special needs community through the

See SANTA, page 13

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Culture Watch

Comic book foreshadows
election; Vatican on Internet

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Christmas revisited

Parishes, schools share
Christmas spirit with many

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'Blind alley' battle

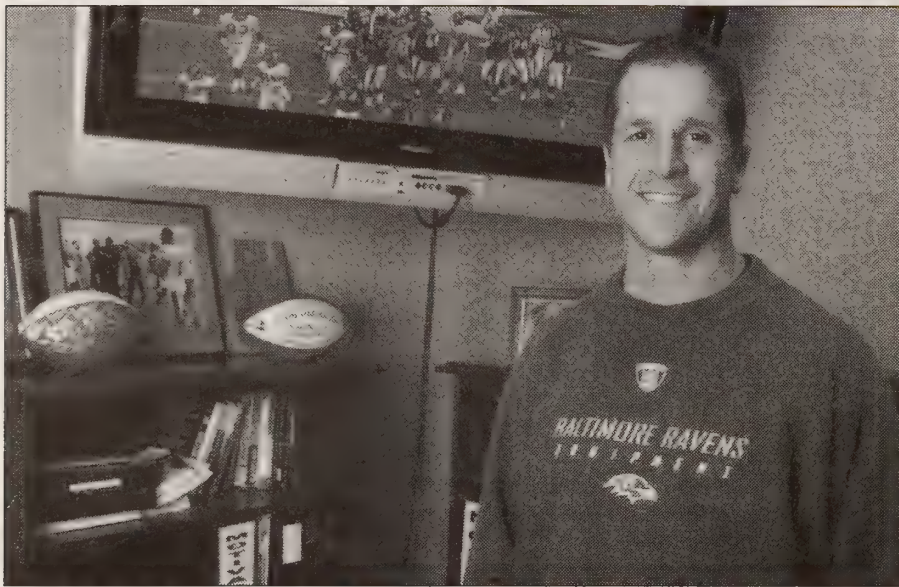
Pope deplores escalating
violence in Gaza

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CATHOLIC COACH



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh is pictured in his office in Owings Mills, Md., Nov. 11. Harbaugh, a lifelong Catholic and parishioner at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, said faith is an important part of his life. He revived Catholic Masses for the Ravens after a gap of several years.

Rookie head coach finds winning combination, takes team to playoffs

BALTIMORE (CNS) — One day this fall, John Harbaugh walked into a barbershop near his home. As the 46-year-old sat in the barber's chair, a hairdresser casually asked, "What are you doing this weekend?"

"Oh, I don't know," he replied, "a little bit of this and that."

The hairdresser was trying to tease a man whose visage has quickly become one of the more recognizable in the region.

A year ago, Harbaugh, a lifelong Catholic, was plucked from relative obscurity to become the third head coach in Baltimore Ravens history. As the regular season of the National Football League came to a close in late December, he had achieved an 11-5 record and taken his team into the playoffs.

Harbaugh steered the conversation with his hairdresser away from his career. He never boasted about his high-profile job; he wanted to stick to the ideals that have defined his life: treating others with respect and staying humble.

Catholicism, he says, gave him those principles.

Harbaugh spend most of his elementary school years in various Catholic schools and has fond memories of the nuns who kept him in line.

After he clapped erasers on the walls, one punished him by making him write a sentence hundreds of times on the chalkboard. Another made him work as a janitor for two weeks after he scaled a church tower so he could clang the bell.

"Accountability was a big part of it," said Harbaugh, whose favorite duty as an altar boy was ringing the bells at Mass.

"They made you be courteous and respectful and not be judgmental of others," he said. "To understand right from wrong was the biggest thing."

Father Christopher Whatley, Catholic chaplain for the Ravens, said the head coach is always at Sunday Mass with other Catholic coaches before games. On the road, local priests are called ahead of time to lead worship.

"He's very prayerful during Mass and very attentive to what I have to share in the homily," said Father Whatley. "He's there to gain some spiritual nourishment."

It was Harbaugh who revived Catholic Masses for the Ravens after several years without them. He also attends a weekly Bible study at the training facility with his fellow coaches.

Even though Sundays are the most high-pressure days of his life, Harbaugh said it's critical to make time for God.

"I think it's a way to honor God and praise God," he said. "You just humble yourself a little bit before God and let him know that these things that we do are for you."

Harbaugh likened his job to that of a shepherd who keeps everyone "moving in the right direction to get them to the pasture we want them to graze in."

"I care enough about the players to be demanding of them — to make sure that everything we do is about attention to detail," he said, "sticking to the plan and not backing out from the values and principles that we think are important."

Before, during and after games, Harbaugh said he's always praying — not for a win, but for God to draw near.

"I used to pray for other reasons, and every now and then, I'd pray for a turnover," he said, "but more than anything else, I want God to stay close to me so I don't get caught up in myself and basically embarrass myself. That's selfish behavior."

California man in Santa suit kills eight, then self; was church usher

COVINA, Calif. (CNS) — A man dressed in a Santa suit who opened fire at his former in-laws' Christmas Eve party in Covina then set the house ablaze, killing at least eight people, had been an usher at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montrose, Calif.

The gunman, Bruce Pardo, killed himself hours after what police described as a revenge attack on his ex-wife and her parents, all of whom were believed to be among the dead, along with at least five others, at the Covina home 25 miles east of Los Angeles.

The victims had been attending an annual Christmas party when Pardo knocked at the family's door. He shot an 8-year-old girl in the face after she answered the door, and then began firing at the guests indiscriminately with a semiautomatic handgun.

People ran from the home, jumped out windows and hid behind furniture during the barrage of gunfire.

After his shooting rampage, Pardo set the house ablaze allegedly by using a pressurized fuel tank he carried in a large box wrapped as a present. At least three people, including the girl who answered the door, were hospitalized but were expected to recover.

The gunman, who had been a regular usher for the Sunday evening Masses at Holy Redeemer for the past five years, had signed up to usher for the parish's midnight Mass but did not show up at the church that night.

"This is shocking," said Jan Detanna, the parish's usher coordinator. "He was the nicest guy you could imagine. Always a pleasure to talk to, always a big smile."

Pardo, 45, did not have a criminal record or any history of violence. According to police he was angry about the settlement of his divorce in mid-December from Sylvia Ortega; their marriage had lasted less than one year.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The date of the *Blood Drive* at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., has been changed to Jan. 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in conference room 1-89. Donors can make an appointment online at www.cbcc.us/donate with input code CharlotteDiocese.

CHARLOTTE — A *Festival of Lessons and Carols* will be presented at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. The adult choir, handbell choir and children's choir will present the works of Victoria, Nanino, Horvit and Rutter. A reception given by the Women's Guild will follow in the Msgr. Pharr Activity Center. Come worship and celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord as we sing and hear the music of Christmas. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — "Understanding the Issues that Impact Jewish-Christian Relations," the 9th annual Kennedy Lecture, will be presented by Dr. Edward Kessler, executive director of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Admission

is free but reservations are required. For more information, call (704) 332-2901 ext.12 or e-mail office@stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — "Women Who Walked Through Fire in Faith," a series on women evangelizers of the early church, will be presented by Barbara Reagan at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — March and pray for an end to abortion during the *March for Life Charlotte* Jan. 16. Marchers should gather at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and Church Sts. across from the diocesan Pastoral Center at 11 a.m. The march will proceed to Trade and Tryon Sts. at 12 p.m. and continue to the court house at 401 W. Trade St., where participants will pray a rosary and chaplet of divine mercy. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat "Passage to Wholeness: A Retreat for Adults 40+," will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). This is a retreat for anyone seeking a more meaningful way to integrate their spirituality as they walk through the second half of life. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door. For more information or to register, call Father Vince at the church office (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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JANUARY 2, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 9

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican agency says at least 20 church workers killed in 2008

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At least 20 church workers were killed in 2008, demonstrating that Catholic men and women — bishops, priests, religious and laity — continue placing their lives at risk in order to proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor, said the Vatican's Fides news agency.

Publishing its annual list of missionaries killed during the year, the agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples said all Catholics have an obligation to remember those who sacrificed their lives, to thank God for their witness and to resolve to be more courageous in demonstrating their own faith.

"In profoundly different situations and contexts, according to their own talents, attitudes and with their own limits, all of them consecrated their lives to the unique mission of

proclaiming and witnessing to the love of Christ, who died and rose again for the salvation of mankind," said a Dec. 30 Fides statement.

"Without heroics or solemn proclamations, they did not hesitate to put their lives at risk each day in many different contexts of suffering, poverty and tension," Fides said.

Chaldean Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, Iraq, led Fides' 2008 list.

The 65-year-old archbishop was kidnapped Feb. 29 in an attack that left his driver and two bodyguards dead.

His body was recovered two weeks later after the kidnappers told Catholic leaders in Iraq where he had been buried.

The list also included 16 priests, one religious brother and two Catholic lay workers.

Hamrik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A memorial Mass honoring the Holy Innocents and all the unborn will be held in the Belmont Abbey Basilica of Mary Help of Christians Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. Abbot Placid Solari will preside. Other events include prayers at the gravesite of the Holy Innocents, a dessert reception and a Room at the Inn update. For more information, e-mail iroomatthein@rati.org or call (704) 525-4673.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start an eight-week program on Deuteronomy beginning Jan. 6. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — A Men's Evening of Reflection will be held Jan. 7 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. A spiritual talk on the theme "What does it mean to know thyself?" will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656 or jendredy@gmail.com.

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic, A Woman's Choice, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A charismatic Mass is celebrated

the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — A Mass for the Holy Innocents will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 128 North Fulton St. on Jan. 3 at 8 a.m. The Mass will be dedicated to all parents who are grieving the loss of their child through death, miscarriage or stillbirth. A breakfast will follow. For more information, call the church office at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmooore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican supports ending violence against homosexuals, not new rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it condemns all forms of violence against homosexuals, but does not support a proposed U.N. declaration recognizing "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as new categories that need human rights' protections.

"Despite the declaration's rightful condemnation of and protection from all forms of violence against homosexual persons, the document, when considered in its entirety, goes beyond this goal and instead gives rise to uncertainty in the law and challenges existing human rights norms," a Vatican statement said.

The statement, issued by the office of the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, was submitted Dec. 18 during the U.N. General Assembly's discussion of a proposed Declaration on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

The statement said the Vatican appreciates efforts in the declaration

aimed at condemning all forms of violence against homosexuals and urging nations to put an end to all criminal penalties against them.

However, the declaration's wording and its introduction of new categories for human rights' protections go "well beyond the above-mentioned and shared intent," it said.

The new categories of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," it said, "find no recognition or clear and agreed definition in international law."

If these were added to the list of protected human rights' categories, it "would create serious uncertainty in the law as well as undermine the ability of states to enter into and enforce new and existing human rights conventions and standards," the statement said.

It said the Vatican "continues to advocate that every sign of unjust discrimination toward homosexual persons should be avoided and urges states to do away with criminal penalties against them."

A family of faith



CNS PHOTO BY JUAN MEDINA, REUTERS

People take part in a Mass in Madrid, Spain, Dec. 28 promoting the traditional family. Thousands of Spaniards attended the Mass on the feast of the Holy Family.

During the Angelus Dec. 28, Pope Benedict XVI spoke in Spanish as he sent his best wishes to those gathered in Madrid "to pray for the family and to commit themselves to working on its behalf with strength and hope."

The pope prayed that all Christian families would model their relationships on those of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, working together, trusting in God and taking care of one another.

"The family certainly is a grace of God, which allows us to see who he is: love," Pope Benedict said.

Vatican: Number of people at papal events leveling off

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of pilgrims and visitors coming to Rome to see the "new" pope appears to be leveling off.

In 2008, more than 2.21 million people saw Pope Benedict XVI in person at the Vatican or the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, attending his weekly general audience, a special audience with him, a liturgy he celebrated or his Sunday Angelus address, according to figures released by the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household Dec. 29.

The total figure for 2007 was

more than 2.8 million pilgrims and visitors, while in 2006 — his first full calendar year as pope — the total was more than 3.2 million. According to the 2008 statistics, a total of 534,500 people attended one of Pope Benedict's 42 weekly general audiences. Another 226,500 people were part of groups that had a special audience with the pope.

Pope Benedict's Masses and prayer services drew 324,000 people and his Sunday and holy day recitation of the Angelus brought 1.13 million people to St. Peter's Square or Castel Gandolfo.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 5-9
Annual bishop's retreat

Jan. 10 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for aspirants of deacon formation program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Jan. 13 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Jan. 15 (7 p.m.)
Respect Life Mass
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

Obama to be sworn in with Bible Lincoln used at first inauguration

BIBLE, from page 1

Catholic chief justice of the United States.

Obama encouraged comparisons between himself and Lincoln during the presidential campaign, which he kicked off in early 2007 on the steps of the Old Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, where Lincoln delivered his legendary "House Divided" speech in 1858 about the dangers of continuing to maintain a nation that was "half slave, half free."

The Jan. 20 inauguration also comes a few weeks before the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's Feb. 12, 1809, birth.

The worn, pinkish, velvet-covered Bible used during the 1861 inauguration of Lincoln isn't necessarily considered a significant book, except for the fact that it was used to swear in the man who is credited with preserving the nation during one of its bleakest periods in history, said Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, where the Bible is currently stored.

An interesting sidelight about Lincoln's first inauguration brought to mind by the Bible is that Chief Justice Roger Taney, a Marylander, was required

"The use of this historic Bible will provide a powerful connection to our common past and common heritage."

— Emmett Beliveau

to administer the oath of office to a man with whom he would continue to cross swords for the next three years.

Taney was a bitter political rival of Lincoln's and the author of the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision in 1857 that would indirectly lead to the Civil War.

"President-elect Obama is deeply honored that the Library of Congress has made the Lincoln Bible available for use during his swearing-in," said Emmett Beliveau, executive director of the Presidential Inaugural Committee, in a written statement released by the Obama transition team.

"The president-elect is committed to holding an inauguration that celebrates America's unity, and the use of this historic Bible will provide a powerful



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

This Bible, pictured at the Library of Congress in Washington, was used when Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as president of the United States in 1861. When President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in Jan. 20 as the 44th president of the United States, he will take the oath of office with the same Bible.

connection to our common past and common heritage," he said.

Bible background

The 1,280-page Bible was purchased by William Thomas Carroll, clerk of the Supreme Court, for Lincoln's March 4, 1861, inauguration, because the Lincoln

family Bible was still en route from Springfield, packed away with the first family's belongings, the transition team's statement said.

The back of the Bible is adorned with the seal of the Supreme Court and a statement that reads "I, William Thomas Carroll, clerk of the said court, do hereby certify that the preceding copy of the holy Bible is that upon which the Honorable R.B. Taney, chief justice of the said court, administered to His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, the oath of office as president of the United States."

The Library of Congress actually has thousands of Bibles in more than 150 languages, about 1,500 of which are considered significant editions for their rare or historic value, Dimunation told Catholic News Service last summer, as he allowed two CNS staff members to hold the Lincoln Bible.

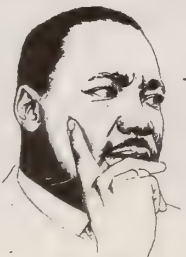
Most of the rare Bibles were gifts to the library, but others have been purchased and varied in price depending on their significance, he said.

"You can't really put a price tag on these books, from a curator's point of view," Dimunation said.

"We are a major resource for the study of the Bible," he said. "We never talk about the money. It gives people the wrong sense of these books, with texts that remain a valid expression for all sorts of interests."

The Library of Congress planned to place the 1861 inaugural Lincoln Bible on display from Feb. 12 to May 9 as part of its exposition, "With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition."

2009 CHARLOTTE DIOCESE CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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Join us as we remember Dr. King's life and his influence on others through "The Civil Rights Heritage Tour" of the Greensboro area. We'll also view the phenomenal photographs of historian Otis Hairston and hear the oral tribute to Dr. King by Delano Rachard.

Featuring The Civil Rights Heritage Tour -

On this unique African American tour, history comes alive through actors in period costume who depict Greensboro's rich civil rights past through the eyes of the people who lived it. The tour follows the city's unusual story of social activism from the early Quakers with their secret work on the Underground Railroad to the famous A & T Four who initiated the Woolworth's Sit-in Movement, the second most powerful civil rights movement in the nation. Participants will get to stretch their legs when they make two thirty-minute stops at the museum holding Greensboro's most extensive black history exhibit and at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Historic site. A shorter stop will be made at Thea House, the Catholic Campus Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte serving the Greensboro area. The tour, which includes visuals and tour guide narration, is both entertaining and educational for all ages. The motorcoach tour, consisting of 2 two-hour segments, will originate and terminate at St. Mary Catholic Church.

A prayer service, lunch and presentations by Otis Hairston and Delano Rachard will take place in the Parish Life Center of St. Mary Catholic Church during the mid-day.

Questions? Call (704) 641-3108

Save the Date and Register NOW! Advance registration is required.

Cost - \$10 per person (covers both the tour and lunch)

Complete registration form, attach your check or money order made payable to the "AAAM Ministry" and mail (postmarked no later than January 12)

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Deepening concerns

Financial woes leave millions wondering how far down economy can go

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—History likely will frame 2008 as the year America overcame lingering questions about racism as the country elected its first African-American president in Barack Obama.

But even such a historic election could be overshadowed by the deepening concern about just how far the U.S. economy would sink into recession in the worst economic slump since the Great Depression.

The majority of electoral analysts agreed people voted their pocketbooks Nov. 4, thinking Obama offered them a better chance to save their homes from foreclosure, create jobs and spur an economic turnaround in a shorter period of time than Republican John McCain.

However, as the year drew to a close, the consensus among financial analysts, economists and government policymakers was that any recovery would be more than a year away.

Obama himself acknowledged things would get worse before they got better.

Recent economic projections bore that out:

— The financial firm Goldman Sachs, after adjusting its projections for unemployment twice since October, predicted the figure would reach at least 9 percent in 2009.

Unemployment stood at 6.7 percent in November, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

— The Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities expected that such a high rate of unemployment could translate into as many as 10.3 million people falling into poverty.

That figure included up to 6.3 million people lapsing into deep poverty, which includes those whose income is below half of the poverty line, which was about \$11,500 for a family of four in 2007.

— The gross domestic product — the value of services and goods produced — was expected to fall for another year.

The consensus on Wall Street and among Washington policymakers was that it would be well into 2010 before even a minimal turnaround could be expected.

— The Big Three automakers — General Motors, Chrysler and Ford — faced an even bleaker future after Senate Republicans objected to a \$14 billion loan package that earlier was approved by the House of Representatives, though

the White House was trying to work out a rescue plan to help the companies in the short term as they retooled their business models.

— Home foreclosures had declined slightly by early December but remained at near-record levels.

Housing values continued to decline and prices were expected to tumble another 10 percent to 15 percent before the market began to recover.

In it together

The bad forecasts came despite frenetic federal efforts to bail out U.S. banks, which faced shortfalls in revenues thanks largely to defaults on mortgage payments by homeowners deep in debt.

After a week of intense negotiations, the Bush administration and Congress agreed to a \$700 billion infusion of funds for banks.

Such dire economic news got the attention of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which at its annual November meeting in Baltimore agreed to a statement issued by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, conference president.

The statement expressed solidarity with those who lost jobs, had their homes foreclosed on and saw retirement savings threatened.

"We are all in this together," the statement said.

Citing the human and moral consequences of the crisis, the statement said the church would continue to "reach out to those in need, stand with those who are hurt and work for policies that bring greater compassion, accountability and justice to economic life."

Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the world economy several times after the near collapse of financial systems in September. He reserved his strongest comments for the Jan. 1 celebration of the World Day of Peace.

In his message, titled "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace" and released Dec. 11, the pope said global governance and a new ethical approach were needed for the world's financial markets and international commerce so investments and development would contribute to the common good and to world peace.

Policies and norms must be based on a common code of ethics and actions must be guided by the principles of "fraternity and responsibility," he said.

The growing poor

As the pope released his document,



CNS PHOTO BY LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Nov. 25, 2008. The financial woes of 2008 have left millions of people wondering how far down the economy can go.

Catholic Charities USA was working to address the growing need for food, housing, financial assistance and health care amid cuts in government funds that local agencies were experiencing.

A fall survey of local Catholic Charities agencies found more middle-class people turning to the diocesan agencies for basic needs in addition to a growing number of the poor.

During a Dec. 11 teleconference, Catholic Charities officials called upon the federal government to boost support for lower income people "on the back street" the same way they supported financial firms on Wall Street and talked about assistance for the middle class on Main Street.

"This is a great opportunity in the economic recovery so that the people who were left out in the past will be included in the future recovery package," Candy Hill, senior vice president for social policy and government affairs at Catholic Charities USA, told dozens of the agency's diocesan affiliates.

"We're trying to make sure this is an inclusive package," she said.

Failing Flint

Few places illustrated the devastation of the economic crisis better than Flint, Mich., 60 miles northwest of Detroit.

The city where General Motors Corp. was born a century ago, Flint defined what it meant to be the modern American industrial city throughout the 20th century, building its economy around the automobile.

While Flint has been losing automobile-related jobs since the 1980s, losing what's left of the car industry would destroy the city, said Rick Carter, executive director of Flint Area Congregations Together, a coalition of about 15 Catholic, Protestant, African-American and Unitarian churches.

The concern in Flint and other similar communities was the Big Three would be forced to declare bankruptcy

and end support of health care and pension programs for retirees and their spouses, Carter said.

Unemployment in the once prosperous blue-collar community was approaching 10 percent. Where once the automobile industry in Flint employed 80,000, only about 8,000 jobs remained.

The city's population declined from a peak of nearly 197,000 in 1960 to the current U.S. Census Bureau estimate of 114,000.

Based at St. John Vianney Church, the Flint-area coalition was working to address growing social ills such as safety, youth violence, abandoned housing and corruption in local politics, Carter said.

"It's the economy, the lack of jobs, the disinvestment," Carter said, explaining the flight of manufacturing firms, who have left behind vast tracts of vacant and abandoned properties.

"There's no investment in the community," he said.

Because of its lack of economic progress, the city was designated by Forbes.com as one of the country's fastest dying cities.

While the example of Flint may be extreme, the Michigan city was not alone as 2008 came to a close.

Former manufacturing centers in Ohio and Indiana in particular were finding the worst economic decline in 80 years to be a challenge almost impossible to overcome.

To help unemployed workers, parishes like St. Basil the Great in Brecksville, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb, started employment services to aid not just laid-off factory workers but professionals as well.

The economic downturn also left Catholic universities and other Catholic institutions facing staff and budget cuts because investment income declined and charitable gifts were becoming fewer in number.

Contributing to this report was Carol Glatz at the Vatican.

Over 10,635 babies killed in Mecklenburg County alone last year!!

**Come and save our children today...
Join the March for Life Charlotte and pray!!!
Friday, January 16 - 11 am**

Be a witness for the sanctity of human life and act of reparation for an end to abortion

Gather at 11am at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and S. Church St. (across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at noon to Trade

& Tryon St. Then continue on to the courthouse at 401 W. Trade St. to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot; if you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march!!



Better because of Benedict

U.S. Catholics receive strong dose of encouragement from pope's visit

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Catholics were repeatedly encouraged to find renewed hope in Christ during Pope Benedict XVI's April 15-20 visit to the United States.

Whether the pope was addressing international or religious leaders, youths or the Catholics who filled baseball stadiums in Washington and New York, he continually reiterated the trip's theme, "Christ Our Hope," and earnestly spoke of a "new springtime" for the American church.

The pontiff, in his first visit to the United States as pope, celebrated Mass at the ballparks in both cities and spoke at the White House, the General Assembly of the United Nations and at churches in Washington and New York.

He also departed from his planned itinerary for a private meeting with victims of the clergy sex abuse crisis.

He often spoke of the "genuinely religious spirit" of the American people and praised the vitality of parish life and church movements. But he also encouraged U.S. Catholics to take their faith experience to a deeper level by evangelizing with renewed zeal and rejecting secularism.

Instead of criticizing U.S. Catholics as some commentators had predicted, the pope gently urged them to be unified and to be a beacon of hope in the modern world.

The visit had been highly anticipated since it was announced in November 2007. Many wondered how the scholarly pontiff would compare with the crowd-pleasing Pope John Paul II.

But in all the public venues the cheering crowds dispelled the notions of Americans not warming up to Pope John Paul's successor.

Encouraging words

There was pre-visit speculation about whether the pope would address the clergy abuse scandal — which he did several times — and what he would say to Catholic college presidents — he offered them words of encouragement.

Right from the start — aboard the papal flight to the United States — Pope Benedict addressed the clergy abuse crisis that had scarred the U.S. church, saying he was "deeply ashamed" by it.

Throughout the U.S. visit he condemned the abuse scandal and spoke of the urgent need for healing.

During a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York for priests and religious, the pope urged the congregation to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose."

In other gatherings he sounded warnings on the dangers of secularism and the misuse of freedom.

During an April 17 Mass at Nationals Park, Washington's baseball stadium, he told 45,000 people that American society is at a moral crossroads.

Three days later at a Mass at New York's Yankee Stadium, the pope urged more than 57,000 Catholics "to use wisely the blessings of freedom in order to build a future of hope for coming generations."

Pope Benedict also made a special appeal to young people at the Yankee Stadium Mass, urging them to "step forward and take up the responsibility which your faith in Christ sets before you."

He offered a similar challenge to about 25,000 youths the previous day during a rally at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

In Washington, the pope urged 400 Catholic college presidents and diocesan education representatives at The Catholic University of America to lead students to deeper faith.

He also told about 200 representatives of Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center "to persevere in their collaboration" to serve society and enrich public life.

Whirlwind visit

The pope began his U.S. visit by meeting privately with President George W. Bush after he was greeted by thousands of well-wishers during a public welcoming ceremony on the White House lawn.

He spoke to about 300 U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception encouraging them to continue their work to restore trust in the church and its ministers.

In New York, he told the U.N. General Assembly that fundamental human rights "cannot be applied piecemeal" and cannot be denied or diminished because of "different cultural, political, social and even religious outlooks."

One of his most somber visits was at Ground Zero where the pope knelt alone and offered a silent prayer.

He also read a prayer aloud with a small group at his side representing survivors, the family members of the dead and representatives of the New York Port Authority, police and fire departments.

At an ecumenical prayer service in New York he expressed concern that Christianity could slip into "fragmentation and a retreat into individualism."

Pope Benedict met separately with the Jewish participants in the interreligious meeting. He also visited a New York synagogue.

The pope had two occasions of his own to mark while in the United States: his 81st birthday and the third anniversary of his election as pope.

After his departure, many U.S. Catholics said they felt a deeper connection with their spiritual leader and that the effects of the visit would last beyond the six-day trip as they planned to read and reread the texts of his speeches.

For many, what stood out the most was not the huge crowds at papal events but his private meeting at the apostolic nunciature in Washington with five victims of clergy sexual abuse.

One observer summed it up by saying the pope did "exactly what American Catholics needed and wanted to see" from the person who is the highest authority in the church.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIEGHEC

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd as he departs Yankee Stadium after celebrating Mass in New York April 20, 2008.

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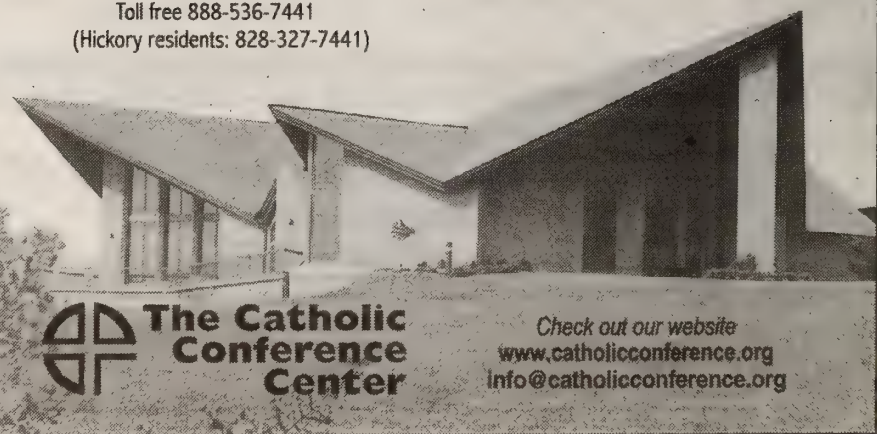
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Presidential election caps dramatic year

Economy a major issue for voters

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The election of Sen. Barack Obama as president Nov. 4 climaxed a dramatic political year in which the faltering economy ultimately steered voters' decisions.

While Obama's election was historic in many ways, the campaign between Obama, an Illinois Democrat, and Republican nominee Sen. John McCain of Arizona had its own particular religious angles of interest.

Before it came down to voters who were worried primarily about the economy, the campaign had veered off into stories about the clergy who advised or endorsed the candidates and disagreements among some in the Catholic Church about their moral obligations in voting.

The election also brought ballot measures on which the Catholic Church weighed in, including those about same-sex marriage, regulations on abortion, assisted suicide, embryonic stem-cell research, gambling and taxes to aid the needy.

At the top of the ballot, Obama won a slightly higher percentage of votes among Catholics, 54 percent to 45 percent for McCain, than among all voters, 53 percent of whom chose Obama

while 46 percent voted for McCain.

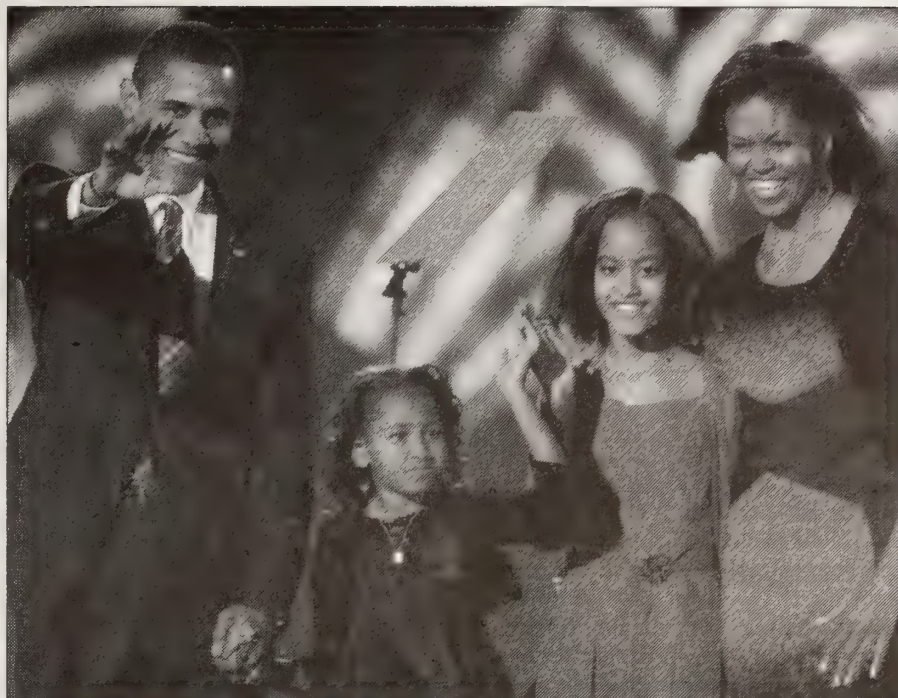
Latinos were a significant factor in the Catholic portion of the vote, with 67 percent supporting Obama. Like white voters overall, white Catholics more strongly supported McCain over Obama, by 52 percent to 47 percent. Latinos make up about 40 percent of U.S. Catholics.

In the new year analysts will still be debating how much Catholic voters were influenced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' election guide, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," and by the statements of some bishops who warned that voting should be based on the candidates' record on abortion.

Groups such as Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, the Matthew 25 Network, Catholics United and Democrats for Life had a significant national role in arguing that voting based on Christian morals was more complex than only seeking to make abortion illegal.

Two prominent pro-life Catholic law professors, Douglas Kmiec of Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and Nicholas Cafardi, dean emeritus and professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, came under fire for their endorsements of Obama.

Cafardi, who is both a canon lawyer



CNS PHOTO BY GARY HERSHORN, REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama arrives in Chicago to speak to supporters with his wife, Michelle, and their children, Sasha and Malia, after being declared the winner of the 2008 U.S. presidential election Nov. 4. Obama is the first African-American to be elected president.

and civil lawyer, resigned from the board of trustees of Ohio's Franciscan University of Steubenville after writing that a committed Catholic voter should consider a long list of "intrinsically evil acts" that includes but is not limited to abortion.

Kmiec, former dean of the law school at The Catholic University of America in Washington and a Republican who helped craft the Reagan administration's legal challenges to Roe v. Wade, wrote a book explaining his support for Obama, "Can a Catholic Support Him? Asking the Big Questions About Barack Obama."

He argued that after more than 30 years of the pro-life movement focusing almost entirely on trying to reverse Roe v. Wade, with little progress or hope for success, he was prepared to take Obama at his word that he would work to reduce abortions by measures such as providing better health care and social services aid for the poor.

At one point, Kmiec was denied Communion during a Mass for a Catholic business group by a priest who chastised him from the pulpit. The priest later apologized, after the intervention of Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony.

At the annual USCCB general meeting in mid-November, the bishops approved a statement on the election.

In it they said they looked forward to working with Obama, but went on to warn against interpreting the election outcome as "a referendum on abortion" and said "aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans."

Clergy and controversy

Earlier in the year, McCain and Obama both had to distance themselves from ministers who stirred controversy.

Obama and his wife severed ties with their Chicago church, Trinity United Church of Christ, after videos of bombastic sermons by its former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, were posted on YouTube.

A Chicago archdiocesan priest, Father Michael Pfleger, was required to take a leave of absence from his pastoral duties at St. Sabina Church after, as

a guest preacher at Trinity, he made disparaging remarks about Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York.

McCain rejected the endorsement of two televangelists. Rev. John Hagee, pastor of a San Antonio megachurch, had described the Catholic Church as "the great whore" and a "false cult system," among other statements.

McCain also repudiated the backing of Rev. Rod Parsley of the World Harvest Church of Columbus, Ohio, who has described Islam as the "Antichrist."

Other issues

Beyond the presidential race, in states where it was an election issue, voters agreed with the Catholic Church's stance against legalizing gay marriage.

Voters in California, Arizona and Florida approved changes to state constitutions to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Connecticut voters rejected an effort to call a constitutional convention to overturn that state's prevailing Supreme Court ruling that allows same-sex marriage.

On other statewide issues, positions taken by Catholic Church leaders were on the losing side. California rejected a proposal requiring parental notification before a minor could have an abortion, and South Dakota voters rejected a ban on nearly all abortions.

Voters in Washington made theirs the second state in the union to allow physician-assisted suicide. And Michigan voters agreed to expand embryonic stem-cell research and barred laws that would limit such research or treatments.

Gambling initiatives opposed by the local church in Maryland and Ohio passed, allowing slot machines in the former and a privately owned casino in southwestern Ohio.

Measures passed in two Missouri counties to raise money for children's services with a sales tax increase. A Massachusetts effort to repeal the state income tax failed.

The local church had supported each of those outcomes as necessary to help meet the needs of the poor.



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WHEN:

Thursday, January 8
7 – 8:30 pm

The Letter to the Philippians

Fr. Eugene
Schellberg

Read Fr. Ray Brown –
Pages 483-501

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Fr. Patrick Cahill

The Letter to the Romans

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Susan Brady

The Letter to the Galatians

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Fr. Patrick Toole

The Second Letter to the
Corinthians

WHERE:

St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy
Charlotte, NC 28277
New Life Center, Banquet Room

2008 full of many highlights for diocese

DIOCESE, from page 1

ordained for the diocese celebrated their 25th anniversary, while several churches and a school celebrated milestone anniversaries; a mission church was rededicated and two parish halls were dedicated; two Catholic sections of cemeteries were blessed; diocesan priests celebrated the Mass in the extraordinary form for the first time; and the bishop launched a Web site to promote Catholics in the political arena.

Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis, along with Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, launched Catholic Voice NC, an initiative to give North Carolina's Catholics a greater voice in the political process.

The two bishops made the announcement during a press conference in front of the State Legislative Building in Raleigh July 2. The initiative's Web site, www.catholicvoicenc.org, facilitates contact between legislators and interested Catholics who register at the site.

"It is our belief that in a democracy,

loving our neighbor and caring for the least among us means supporting leaders and policies that promote the common good and protect society's most vulnerable members," said Bishop Jugis to the reporters, news cameras and crowd of approximately 50 people.

Catholic Voice NC later surveyed local and other political candidates on issues relating to church social teaching, and results were posted on the site in October.

On June 7, Bishop Jugis ordained two men as priests — Father Brandon Jones and Father Tri Vinh Truong — during a Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"By your teaching, sanctifying and shepherding in the name of Christ, the Lord will work through your ministry to produce the fruit of salvation in the people you serve — the fruit which remains unto eternal life," Bishop Jugis told them during Mass.

In his journey to the priesthood, Benjamin Roberts was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 29.

"It is as a servant that Benjamin will share in the mission and the grace of Christ," said Bishop Jugis.

In May, the first group of permanent

deacons ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte celebrated their 25th anniversaries of ordination.

The 19 deacons were ordained to the permanent diaconate by then-Bishop Michael J. Begley before more than 2,000 people at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte May 29, 1983.

"It was scary at first," said Deacon Andy Cilone, permanent deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City. "We referred to ourselves as the guinea pigs."

"It was a special group. We were like a fraternity. We looked out for one another," said Deacon Harold Markle, permanent deacon at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro.

Special anniversaries

On June 29, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury celebrated the conclusion of the parish's 125th anniversary with a Mass in the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel of Catawba College.

Later that day, a commencement ceremony took place to mark the laying of the foundation for the building of the new Sacred Heart Church and school.

"Celebrating 125 years here in Salisbury is a true milestone for our parish because it reminds us that in this world that is forever changing, the eternal truths of Christ and his church remain steadfast," said Father John Putnam, pastor.

Parishioners and clergy gathered March 15 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro. With its beginnings as a small group of Catholics meeting for Mass in the late 1940s, the parish today is a mixture of many cultures, including German, Polish, Asian, Hispanic and others.

"We look back to the past, which was wonderful, even as we look forward to a bright new future filled with first Communions, confirmations and marriages of parishioners who will celebrate the next 60 years," said Oblate Father Joseph Tustin, a former pastor who concelebrated the anniversary Mass.

On Sept. 27, Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, celebrated a Mass to honor the 50th anniversary of St. Gabriel School.

The following celebration included a film highlighting the school's 50 years and an indoor picnic. Among the attendees and special guests were past administrators and teachers, and former pastors.

"The campus has changed, but the mission has not," said Father Edward Sheridan, a former pastor.

That mission, he said, is "to provide an environment where things can take place that really matter — to provide an environment where there is true Christian guidance for our children and our parents."

Faithfully dedicated

The week prior on Sept. 19, Bishop Jugis rededicated the refurbished St. Bernadette Mission in Linville. Father Christopher Gober, pastor, concelebrated with former pastors and other diocesan priests. The Mass was the culmination of more than a year's worth of work to expand and refurbish the church, a growing mission of St. Lucien Church

in Spruce Pine.

St. Bernadette Mission was expanded to accommodate the large seasonal population it serves.

"We had to develop for the immediate need but for the future as well," said Father Gober. "The changes and beauty within the church are to inspire the people and draw them deeper into the sacred mysteries."

On July 27, Bishop Jugis dedicated the renovated parish hall at St. Joseph Church in Charlotte. The Charlotte-area Vietnamese Catholics raised funds and performed much of the manual labor to repair and expand the hall, which had been scorched by a kitchen fire in September 2006.

"The parish hall is an important center where we will gather for parish activities now and in the future, and Christ will be present there," said Bishop Jugis. "In the activities that take place in the parish hall, we will come to know the presence of Christ, and we will experience the joy of his friendship and grow in his love."

Earlier on Jan. 26, Bishop Jugis dedicated the new Family Life Center at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

Hundreds of parishioners watched the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the center, which provides much-needed space for meetings, receptions, workshops and parish ministries — things the 1930s-era cathedral could not accommodate.

Bishop Jugis blessed the Catholic sections of a cemetery in Matthews Aug. 12 and in Huntersville Dec 2.

At Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Matthews, the section called The Garden of St. Matthew is the result of a collaborative effort between the cemetery and St. Matthew Church.

"This has been a long effort to bring this to fruition," said Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church.

At Northlake Memorial Gardens cemetery in Huntersville, the Catholic section — which consists of two gardens, the Garden of the Holy Rosary and the Garden of All Saints — was a collaborative effort between the cemetery and St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

The Catholic sections are "a pastorally sensitive approach, offering equal access at one location to all our Catholic parishioners who desire a resting place for either the body or for cremated remains," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishop said the sections fulfill "the requirements of our (diocesan) policy on cemeteries adopted in 2007, which requires that a resting place for the bodies of the deceased and a resting place for cremated remains be available all at one location."

Plans are currently in the works for the opening of a Catholic section at Sharon Memorial Park and Crematory in Charlotte in 2009.

Extraordinary form

In December 2007, 14 priests from the diocese participated in a five-day training session on the 1962 Roman Missal to begin celebrating the extraordinary form of the Mass in their parishes.

The first was Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, who celebrated the Latin-language liturgy Jan. 5.

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PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Fathers Tri Vinh Truong (left) and Brandon Jones (right) lay prostrate before the altar during their ordination Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 7, 2008. The congregation joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis (center), diocesan and visiting priests, deacons and seminarians in prayer for the church, its people and the priestly candidates.

Another church in the diocese where the Mass in the extraordinary form is now offered is St. Joseph Church in Asheboro. For Father Christopher Davis, pastor, the Latin-language Mass was particularly appealing.

"It allows time for contemplative prayer," he said. "You really get that sense of reverential silence upon entering into the mystery of the Eucharist."

The Mass from the Roman Missal in use since 1970 remains the ordinary form of the Mass.

Other highlights

Thousands of people gathered for the diocese's fourth annual Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3-4.

The two-day event, themed "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim," included a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte, eucharistic adoration, music and speakers.

"The Eucharistic Congress is an opportunity for the entire diocese to come together each year to celebrate our faith and our love for the eucharistic Lord," said Bishop Jugis.

"The Eucharist brings us together as one body in Christ. It is the source and the summit of our Christian life, as well as the heart of our Christian life," he said.

On March 1, Bishop Jugis received nine men as candidates to the permanent diaconate during a rite of candidacy at St. Patrick Cathedral.

"The Holy Spirit has been working in you, and now in this ceremony the love of Christ moves you to express openly your desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and humanity,"

said Bishop Jugis to the candidates.

On Feb. 2, two men — Brother Anthony Swofford and Brother Edward Mancuso — professed their solemn vows as Benedictine monks at Belmont Abbey. Accepting their vows and celebrating the Mass was Abbot Placid Solari.

By taking solemn vows of stability, obedience and commitment to a monastic manner of life, the two men will live the rest of their lives in the Benedictine community at Belmont Abbey.

Contributing to this story were staff and correspondents of The Catholic News & Herald.

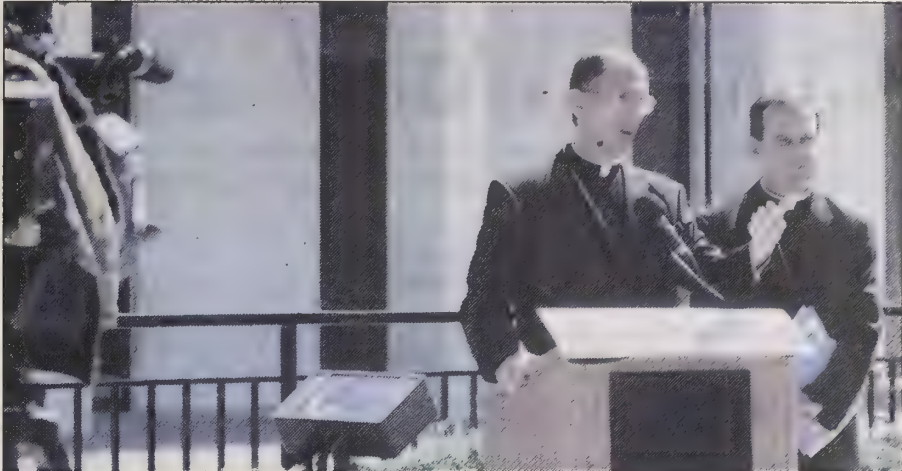


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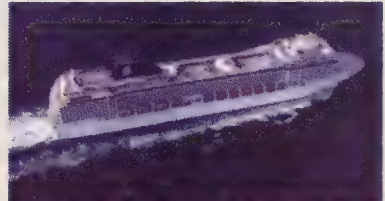


Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, along with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, announce the launch of Catholic Voice NC outside the State Legislative Building in Raleigh July 2, 2008.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte lead a procession from the church to the newly renovated and expanded parish hall, which was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis July 27, 2008.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Historic U.S. election foreshadowed by Catholic comic-book series

BY EILEEN CASEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A Catholic comic-book writer, Berry Reece, was ahead of his time in 1964, predicting a model for a presidential candidate in the 1976 election.

Coming in a close second in the New Hampshire primaries and defeating Sen. Oilandgas in the debates, the candidate in the Treasure Chest comic-book series, "Pettigrew for President," exuded integrity, charisma and promised America a new hope for the future, though many of his adversaries said he lacked experience. Sound familiar?

New York Gov. Timothy Pettigrew was an African-American and a Catholic, and the dream of a black president was not achieved in 1976.

But 44 years after the series by Reece and cartoonist Joe Sinnott, it has become a reality in America, with the Nov. 4 election of Sen. Barack Obama.

President-elect Obama has striking similarities to Reece's Pettigrew; most notably, both were the first black candidates to receive the presidential nomination from a major political party.

However, those reading the comic-book series did not learn until the final installment that Pettigrew was African-American; Sinnott used shadows or placed the character behind scenery for most of the series.

Reece said Pettigrew's race was withheld until the conclusion, "so that his strength of character and words said would be just as possible as any other candidate, and so he wouldn't be judged on the basis of race."

"I was trying to conceive of a person, a hero, a protagonist, who could unite the allegedly United States of America. ... The best president I could imagine who could do that would be a serious thinker of the Afro-American race," Reece said.

Reece remarked that in putting the two candidates side by side, "any similarity would be coincidental. But Pettigrew is a man of serious, complex intellect and integrity, and a strong family man as a husband and father. Obama is all these things to the 15th power."

The question remained for Pettigrew, however, whether he would actually be elected president. In the final panel, Reece depended on the children reading the series to make the call.

"It would depend on whether they believed, and indeed lived those words in the declaration, 'all men are created equal,'" the panel said.

The series "Pettigrew for President" was distributed to students at Catholic parochial schools across the country through the Commission on American Citizenship Activities. The commission



CNS PHOTO, COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER & ARCHIVES

This is a page from a 1964 Catholic comic-book series that predicted an African-American would run for president in 1976.

hoped to instill in students principles of American patriotism as well as Catholic ideology during a time of uncertainty in the United States, with racial disparity and communist fears at the fore.

The commission was based at The Catholic University of America in Washington, where today its documents, including the Reece-Sinnott Treasure Chest series, are in the archives.

In comparing the issues of 1964, what he thought Pettigrew would have had to handle, and the issues Obama faces in 2009, Reece sees similarities.

"In the sense that we are handling international problems in the Middle East that some serious scholars say might make ... World War III because of so much foreign dependence on oil, (and) the '50s and '60s (are) looked at as another time when we tried to prevent a great world war from happening — the war on communism," he said.

Before his book-publishing career, Reece left his home in the South to go to college at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He said there he experienced a total transformation: His religion, political science and law teachers changed his beliefs that had been influenced by his ancestors' culture of slavery, lynching and segregation.

"They made me understand that racism is America's biggest burden, and greatest sin. I had to be very circumspect, and put everything I had been taught before in my back pocket," he said.

Reece also spent time writing for United Press International during the civil rights movement.

"Those were interesting times," he said.

Having lived through such tumultuous moments in history, including the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, Reece expressed optimism about the country's future.

"I think that the world is a better place in 2008. We should all have hope," he said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 11, 2009

Jan. 11, Baptism of the Lord

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
- 3) Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Priests, others reveal Jesus' loving nature

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When the new pastor came into the parish, it was obvious he was a gentle, intellectual Franciscan — warm, with a respectful nature.

What didn't become apparent until he'd been there awhile was that he intended to be the pastor of the parish, not simply celebrate the sacraments and sit back and watch things happen.

And some of the groups within that particular parish had grown quite strong and independent under the previous administration.

In time, he began to make his impact on the ministries of the parish. True to Franciscan spirituality, there came to be more of an emphasis on social ministry.

Some of the other ministries sought to assert their "power" and found out, sooner rather than later, that the new pastor really was in charge of the parish.

He was "in charge" not in an authoritarian sense, but in the sense

in which true authority holds the reins — with a gentle touch. He listened to all sides, he brought in new ideas and new ministries, and gradually almost everyone came to respect his leadership.

The Isaiah reading for this week describes the Lord's servant, in reality the coming Messiah, as, "not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth."

When I read it I couldn't keep from thinking about this gentle, warm and bright Franciscan.

The priesthood is intended to represent Jesus to the people of the church. When a priest does it well, though we know he is not Jesus in the flesh, we find ourselves wondering if God might applaud his efforts to show his Son to us by saying, as the voice from the heavens did when Jesus came out of the water after being baptized:

"You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased."

Questions:

Have you known priests who "showed you" Jesus particularly well? How can you better reveal the loving nature of Jesus to those you come into contact with daily?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens: 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'" (Mark 1:10-11).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 4-10

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; Monday (St. John Neumann), 1 John 3:22-4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; Tuesday (Blessed André Bessette), 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; Wednesday, 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; Thursday, 1 John 4:19-5:4, Luke 4:14-22; Friday, 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; Saturday 1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 11-17

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Mark 1:7-11; Monday, Hebrews 1:1-6, Mark 1:14-20; Tuesday (St. Hilary), Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; Wednesday, Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; Thursday, Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; Friday, Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; Saturday (St. Anthony), Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17.

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'Bedtime Stories' is entertaining comedy

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Adam Sandler takes a turn toward family friendly in his latest adventure comedy "Bedtime Stories." Geared to the grade-school set, this film is reasonably entertaining and contains positive themes of perseverance and family unity.

Not to mention, it is relatively inoffensive, considering the crude antics its star is typically known for.

Skeeter Bronson (Sandler) is a run-of-the-mill hotel handyman who reluctantly agrees to watch his niece and nephew while his sister Wendy (Courteney Cox) goes out of town for a few days.

In an effort to entertain the kids, Skeeter reverts to a tactic that his father used when he was a child and tells them whimsical bedtime stories.

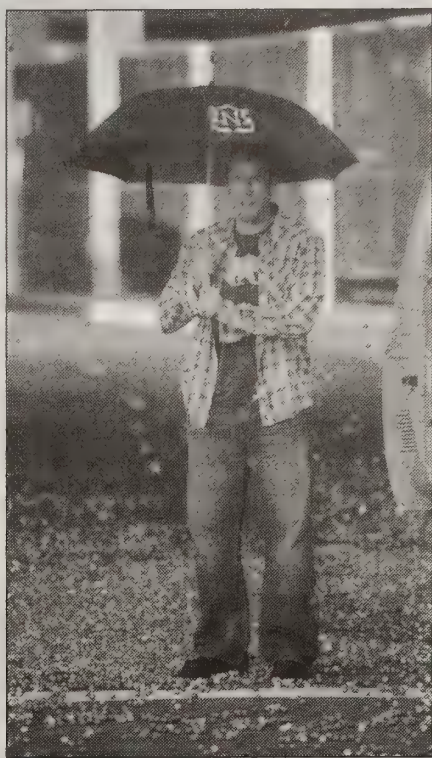
The tales, based on Skeeter's life, are set in imaginary backdrops — the Middle Ages, the Old West and outer space.

The plot thickens when it starts raining gumballs and Skeeter realizes that events from the stories are happening to him in real life.

From that point, Skeeter tries to tailor the stories to fit his own desires, hoping he can land himself a fancy new car, a long-awaited job promotion and a date with a hotel heiress.

What happens in the end is not exactly what Skeeter had in mind.

This film is primarily focused on Sandler's character and contains some



CNS PHOTO BY DISNEY

Adam Sandler stars in the Disney movie "Bedtime Stories."

themes that may be inappropriate for children.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Pope says Vatican must be on Internet with word, sound, images

Camera operators film pope 'with passion and joy,' says priest

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican media must unite their efforts to provide packages of word, sound and images to proclaim the Gospel to modern Internet users, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Today the Internet calls for a growing integration of written, audio and visual communications and therefore challenges the media at the service of the Holy See to enlarge and intensify their collaboration," the pope said Dec. 18 during a meeting with employees of the Vatican Television Center.

The meeting marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the center, which is responsible for filming papal events, making documentaries and providing them to Catholic and other television outlets.

Pope Benedict told the employees that, because the Catholic Church cannot allow its message to be outside "the spaces in which numerous young people navigate in search of answers and of meaning for their lives, you must seek ways to spread voices and images of hope in new formats."

The Vatican Television Center has a small staff and limited resources, but the pope asked the employees and members of the administrative council not to be intimidated; "many people, thanks to your work, can feel closer to the heart of the church," he said.

For centuries pilgrims having been coming to Rome each year to see the pope, he said, and "today this desire can be satisfied, at least in part, thanks to radio and television."

The advantage of providing

audiovisual images of the pope to television networks around the world is that they reach an audience well beyond the Catholic faithful, he said.

The access gives billions of people "timely information about the life and teaching of the church in today's world at the service of the dignity of the human person, justice, dialogue and peace," the pope said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, who serves as director of the television center as well as of the Vatican press office and Vatican Radio, said almost every television image of the pope people around the world see is an image filmed by the Vatican Television Center.

"Even if they are watching RAI (in Italy), Bayerische Rundfunk (in Germany) or CNN, we are the origin in almost every case," Father Lombardi said.

Father Lombardi thanked the pope for his graciousness in allowing the Vatican camera operators to shadow his every public move, but he said that being there with the camera rolling "is our job. It is our obligation. We do it with passion and joy."

Pope Benedict said much of the work of the television center involves filming and distributing images from liturgical celebrations at the Vatican.

"The liturgy truly is the summit of the life of the church, a time and place for a deep relationship with God," he said.

Filming the ceremonies requires not only professional expertise, but also a "spiritual harmony" with what is being filmed and with the devotion or desire for the spiritual nourishment of the audience, the pope said.

Sunday Mass at Notre Dame's basilica now televised live by CatholicTV

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Sunday Mass celebrated in the University of Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 10 a.m. Eastern time is now being televised live weekly on CatholicTV, a television ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston.

"We are pleased to partner with CatholicTV to provide the Basilica Mass each Sunday morning," said Holy Cross Father Richard Warner, campus ministry director.

"CatholicTV has strong East Coast distribution and a strategy for growing its cable audience on a nationwide scale. We are firmly committed to bringing quality Catholic liturgies to a national and global audience," he said in a statement.

CatholicTV, formerly Boston Catholic Television, can be found on Comcast, Verizon, Full Channel and RCN cable providers in New England. It also can be viewed nationally on Sky Angel IPTV, which is Internet protocol television that uses a broadband connection.

The Web site www.skyangel.com specializes in Christian and family-friendly television and radio programming.

The Mass from Notre Dame is also streamed live and archived online at www.CatholicTV.com.

The Mass was broadcast on the Hallmark Channel on cable from 2002 to June 2008 and also on DIRECTV in 2007.

Since June, according to a news release, the basilica staff has received thousands of letters and messages urging that the Mass continue to be available on television. Many viewers are housebound or otherwise unable to attend Mass at their local parish.

Information on the Basilica of the Sacred Heart — including instructions for downloading the Mass on the Internet, viewing liturgical readings and music texts online, and taking a virtual tour of the basilica — is available on the Web at <http://basilica.nd.edu>.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Preschool students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point perform Christmas songs for residents of Maryfield Nursing Home Dec. 16. The students delivered Christmas stockings full of toiletries and gifts donated from students' parents and area businesses to 148 residents. Another 90 gift bags of donated items were delivered to another nursing home in Ramseur.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte perform "Away in a Manger" Dec. 18. The performance was a re-enactment of the Nativity as told by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer to his reindeer-in-training. The student performance also included dancing and a visit from Santa.



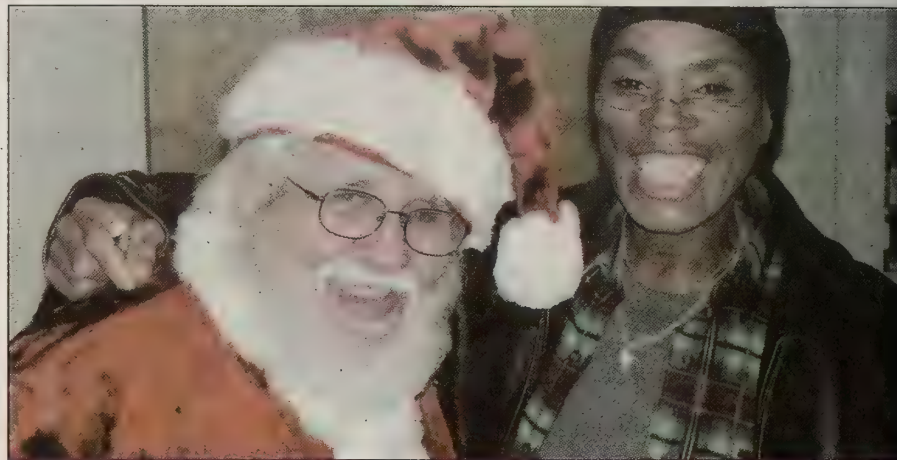
COURTESY PHOTO

Santa Claus joins Father Carmen Malacari, pastor; Deacon James Atkinson; and altar servers during the children's Christmas Eve Mass in the parish activity center of Holy Spirit Church in Denver Dec. 24. More than 800 people attended the Mass, which included a re-enactment of the Nativity by children in the parish.



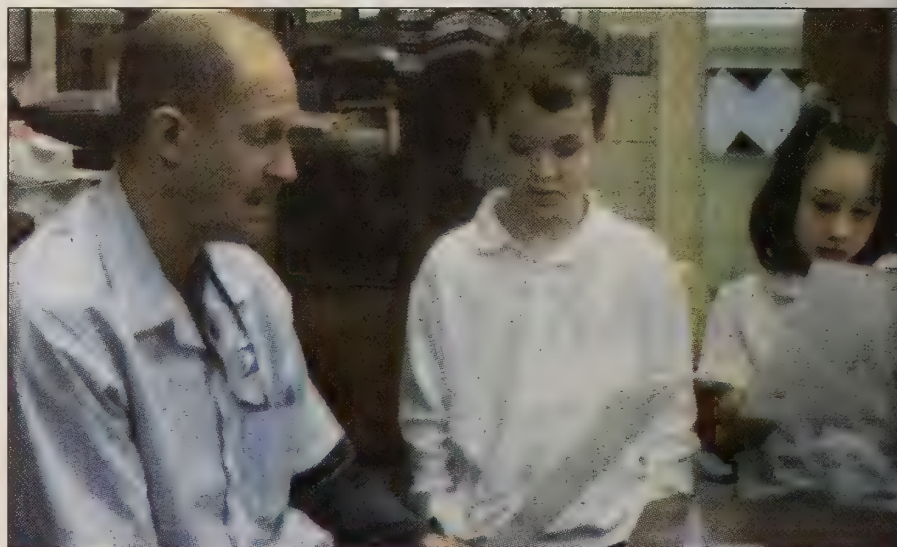
COURTESY PHOTO

People move through the buffet lines during the annual Christmas dinner for senior citizens in the parish hall of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville. The dinner was sponsored by the parish Family Life Ministry.



COURTESY PHOTO

Santa Claus is pictured with Mark Lindsay, a resident of House of Mercy, during a Christmas party for House of Mercy residents Dec. 6. House of Mercy is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy that provides shelter and specialized care for persons living with AIDS. The party was organized by Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte. St. Joseph Church in Newton also organized an Angel Tree for House of Mercy residents.



COURTESY PHOTO

A letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office reads letters from Santa's elves to first-graders of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Dec. 18. The first-graders, along with their sixth-grade prayer partners, previously had written letters to Santa Clause. The "elves" responded with letters delivered and read in class.

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CHRISTMAS REVISITED

Students, volunteers help families at Christmas

SANTA, from page 1

Metro School, a Charlotte Mecklenburg School which serves significantly cognitively-disabled students between the ages of 5 and 22.

"It started with two families from Metro School," said Bowler, who decided to make the project an annual event.

"Each year more and more people get involved," he said.

This year Bowler estimated that he had somewhere between 150 and 200 volunteers.

The project serves approximately 300 families who are recommended by schools and charitable organizations in the Charlotte area.

Each family receives two bags of food along with clothing for each family member and toys for the children.

Over the years, Bowler has built up a volunteer partnership with Charlotte Catholic High School.

It began with students volunteering at Bowler's Camp SOAR, a Special Olympics Athletic Retreat for people with disabilities.

This year the students from Charlotte Catholic played an integral role in Operation Santa's Helpers, particularly with the distribution at Double Oaks Pre-Kindergarten and Family Resource Center.

For the past five years, Bowler has been working closely with the center, located in the heart of Double Oaks Community, a low-income neighborhood in north central Charlotte with a high percentage of households headed by

single females with low education levels.

The students came to the center Dec. 19 to deliver the goods to the families.

"The Charlotte Catholic community has been unbelievable in getting behind this," said Al Tinson, media relations volunteer for Special Olympics Mecklenburg County and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

"As a club, our foundation is based on service and giving back to the community," said Catherine Butler, president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Charlotte Catholic High School, who headed the student-volunteer effort.

"At school we do a lot of service projects," said Butler, but being able to interact with the families makes "it a whole different experience."

Bowler feels particularly strongly about getting young people involved.

"I think it builds character and hopefully makes them better people," he said.

"They all seem to enjoy it and have fun and it gives the families an opportunity to have a Merry Christmas," he added.

The parish youth group, Columbian Squires and Knights of Columbus Council 7343 from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte also were instrumental in collecting donated items for the operation.

Bowler said he tries to get as many people involved as he can.

"It teaches us all what life's about," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Sharing Christmas



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-graders of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem sort through new and gently-used baby clothes and other items Dec. 18 to be donated to Catholic Social Service's Wee Care Shop in Winston-Salem. The items were donated by student families and collected by members of the school's Helping Hands of Mercy, which focuses on ways for children to help children. In January, members will collect toys and shoes for children in the Dominican Republic.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are wrapped gifts collected for Tryon-area families through the Angel Tree at St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. Parishioners and others in the community also donated food to be delivered to the families the weekend of Dec. 20-21.

"We collected gifts for 15 families and an abundance of food for them," said Karen Brunjes, parish office manager. "It is just amazing. The generosity of so many people just warms your heart."



COURTESY PHOTO

Preschool students at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte stand in front of the Mitten Tree Dec. 18. The tree contains items — such as mittens, hats, socks and gloves — to be donated to needy families through Our Lady of the Assumption Church.



COURTESY PHOTO

Faith formation students at St. William Church in Murphy are pictured making more than 100 Christmas stockings Dec. 3. The stockings were made and stuffed with goodies to be distributed through a local food bank and the USO, which provides morale and recreational services to members of the U.S. military worldwide. The students, ages 6-13, hoped their efforts would make Christmas brighter for those around them and for those protecting them.



COURTESY PHOTO

Student council members from Charlotte Catholic High School bring bicycles into the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Dec. 15. The students unloaded a school bus full of toys and bicycles for Catholic Social Services, to be distributed to needy families for Christmas.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A law to help lives

New anti-trafficking act raises awareness of church teaching, plight of many

Not all presidential law signings make the headlines, but some should make news for the good that can come from good bills becoming good laws.

President George W. Bush signed legislation into law Dec. 23 that allows for greater coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement to prevent human trafficking and to prosecute those involved in human trafficking.

According to information provided by the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, the new law — the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act — will extend services and benefits to a greater number of trafficking victims who urgently need them.

Some benefits, for instance, will now be available immediately for trafficking victims who have a pending application for a visa. Also, children believed to have experienced a form of trafficking will receive 120 days of interim assistance while their cases are reviewed.

Other benefits will aid vulnerable children who are at risk of being trafficked, and make more children eligible for permanent legal status and the benefits of the refugee program.

The program also will require that children in the anti-trafficking program be placed in the least restrictive settings and receive home study before they are released.

It also will provide protections for children who are not admitted to the United States and are returned to their home countries.

The protections will help keep the children from being placed in the care of people fraudulently claiming to be parents or relatives in attempts

Guest Column

FATHER SEAN O'NEAL
GUEST COLUMNIST



to exploit them.

Salt Lake City Bishop John C. Wester, chairman of the U.S. bishops' migration committee, said in a statement that President George W. Bush had "done much to elevate public awareness about human trafficking and should be thanked for his leadership."

"It will be important, however, that the new administration and new Congress remain vigilant and continue to work to end to this abominable practice," he added.

National Migration Week, celebrated Jan. 4-10, was developed by the Migration and Refugee Services to promote study and discussion of issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, refugee rights and protections, and human trafficking within the framework of the Catholic Church's social teaching doctrine.

For more information about National Migration Week, visit www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.shtml.

Father O'Neal is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee.

Being nice to the new kid

Why National Migration Week matters to your family

Globally, nationally and regionally, migration includes a host of complicated economic, political and pastoral issues. But what your children need to know can be summed up in six short words: Be nice to the new kid.

"New kid" is something your children can understand, especially if they've ever been one. Then they know how hard that is, particularly if your family had to move in the middle of a school year.

Everyone else seems to know "everything." Everyone else seems to know "everyone else." Everyone else seems to be very aware that you know little about your new surroundings, that you know no one.

And for the child who has just moved, there's missing old friends. There's getting used to a new teacher. There's trying to remember classmates' names.

Then, too, there's stress at home because, even under the best of circumstances, moving is tough on a family. Under less than ideal circumstances, it's tougher still, and settling in takes more time.

National Migration Week is a good reminder for children, parents and parishes that a small act of kindness — a smiling face, a friendly greeting — can make a world of difference for a "new kid," no matter how old he or she is.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration has chosen "A Journey of Peace and Hope" as the theme for this year's National Migration Week, Jan. 4-10. There's a lot of great information at the committee's Web site, www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/bishopsletters.shtml.

And a few quotes from attendees of the September 2004 international conference on "Migration and Theology," held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., sum up the importance of welcoming the stranger.

Scalabrinian Father Graziano Tassello, director of an Italian Catholic

Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS



mission in Switzerland and a member of several migration commissions: "Within the church, no one is a foreigner."

Passionist Father Donald Senior, a biblical scholar and president of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago: "The welcoming of strangers goes to the very heart of the Gospel message."

Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras: "We can't continue with the xenophobia that is growing everywhere. ... We are brothers and sisters."

Let us end with a prayer for migrants. (In 2005, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, celebrated the order's 125th anniversary.)

"Mother Cabrini, you came to America as a migrant, sent to care for those who had journeyed far from home. We ask you to teach us to welcome newcomers to our land and to serve them with the same joy you embodied.

"Beg Jesus, on our behalf, to give us the same gifts of faith, hope and love that he brought to perfection in you.

"We seek faith, that our trust in God will strengthen us to carry on the works of peace and justice. We seek hope, that our confidence will shine as a beacon to those who flee to our land in despair.

"We seek love, the perfect love which casts out all fear, that we may welcome strangers in our land with true peace and generosity of spirit.

"Guide us on our own journey home to Jesus, that we may dwell in his love forever, praising God. Amen."

Seeing Jesus in a smile

Christmas Mass reveals Lord's presence in others

At Christmas we are reminded that Jesus is everywhere. We know that in the celebration of the Mass, Jesus is present in the Eucharist and that when we partake in holy Communion, Jesus becomes present in us.

The challenge in today's world, however, is opening our eyes to see Jesus in others.

This Christmas I was blessed with an invitation to the Holy Angel's Christmas Mass at Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont Dec. 23.

Holy Angels provides a permanent home for children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities, many of whom are medically fragile.

The Mass is an annual event during which residents from Holy Angels participate in a Nativity re-enactment.

When I received the invitation to the Mass, I knew it was going to be a touching experience. However, the joy I witnessed there was beyond anything I could have imagined.

I don't consider myself an overly-emotional person. But as I tried to convey my experience to my mother while standing in her kitchen on Christmas Eve, the flood gates opened and I started to cry.

I told her about the residents and their exuberant participation in the re-enactment through song, dance and theatrical performance.

Some Moore Thoughts

KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER



And I told her of one resident Robert, who assisted as an altar server during the Mass.

For the nearly 20 years, Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, has celebrated the Christmas Mass for Holy Angels. And for the past 15 years, Robert has been right by his side.

The look of pride on Robert's face as he assisted during the Mass was manifested in the form of a beaming smile.

Robert sat by Father O'Rourke

during the Nativity re-enactment and as I glanced over at the pair, I caught Robert reaching out to shake Father's hand.

His esteem for Father O'Rourke was truly heartwarming.

During the sign of peace, I too got to shake Robert's hand.

After that, I was the one who was beaming.

The next day, as I sat in a pew at St. Patrick Cathedral waiting for Christmas Eve Mass to begin, I read an Advent reflection by Bishop Robert Morneau. As he said, "We are to be watchful as the Lord appears to us through the course of our ordinary lives."

I knew that I had been truly blessed because Jesus had revealed himself to me in such an obvious way — through Robert and his great big smile.

Jesus is not always easy to spot, but he is always there.

It is up to us to keep our eyes open

Making Jesus the centerpiece of your new year

Cardinal Newman offers inspiring prayer about depending on God

If you are thinking about making some New Year's resolutions, here's a good tip: Make Jesus the centerpiece of our good intentions.

Cardinal John Henry Newman did this so beautifully.

Cardinal Newman was born in England in 1801 and became an Episcopal priest in 1825. He led the Oxford movement, which emphasized the Fathers of the Church as a source of spiritual truth.

His sermons were controversial because he preached against the Protestant rejection of tradition.

In 1841, he began doubting the claims of the Anglican Church, and eventually resigned his post at St. Mary's Parish in the village of Littlemore, England.

On Oct. 9, 1845, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, believing that his union with Jesus gave him the strength to make this courageous move.

One of his main contributions was in the field of psychological analysis, rather than in theology itself. He saw doctrine

as a living thing and compared it to the idea of human development.

It's important to see him in the context of his devotion to Jesus.

He believed that the incarnation, God becoming man, was the central truth of Christianity and saw Jesus as the source of all spiritual power.

He died in 1890 and is no doubt a saint in heaven today. Cardinal Newman wrote the following prayer, which is a beautiful expression of his total dependence on the Lord. Perhaps it will inspire in you some New Year's resolutions, as it did in me:

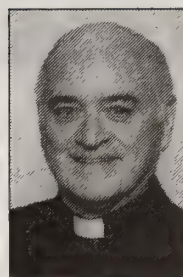
"Teach me Lord to be sweet and gentle in the events of life, in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

"Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

"Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path; let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden and

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



embitter me, that it may make me patient, not irritable, that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty or overbearing.

"May no one be less good for having come within my influence; no one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow traveler in our journey toward eternal life.

"As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper, from time to time, a word of love to you. May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity.

"Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere: Flood my soul with your spirit and life.

"Penetrate and possess my whole being so completely that my life may be only a radiance of yours.

"Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.

"Let them look up and see me no longer, but only Jesus."

A New Year's resolution

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



HAPPY VOICES WILL HELP FIGHT FEARS IN 2009

During a public broadcasting program on the late Luciano Pavarotti, a renowned opera singer was asked, "What made Pavarotti's voice so awesome?"

"He had a happy voice!" the opera singer replied.

After the interview, the program played selections from Pavarotti's performances. As I listened, I too agreed that his voice was ever so cheerful, jumping with joy.

His words and singing exuded gusto and happiness. The tenor also caressed them with the smile of a mother caressing her newborn child. It was as if love was pouring out from his whole being.

To appreciate a happy voice, all we need is to experience the opposite.

When we are angry we tend to stiffen our voice. When we don't want to reveal our self to another we tend to flatten it. And when we are down our voice can sink to muttering.

A happy voice is a gift. It is in the nature of some people to possess a joyful voice that rings with vitality. But no one can maintain a happy voice forever. We all become down at one time or other, and so does our voice.

Still, a happy voice is worth cultivating. One way to accomplish this is to foster a deep appreciation for life, to drink in the goodness and beauty around us, to count our blessings.

My grandfather used to do this frequently when he was alive. After a wonderful meal, he always took time to thank God out loud. How frequently I would hear him whisper, "Thank you, God!"

Another means for cultivating a happy voice is to take an account of how much bounce it possesses from time to time. If it is flat or tense, why is this?

Monitoring our voice implies working at overcoming whatever may be sapping its life continuously.

Political and economic experts are predicting 2009 will be bleak. Fears of all types are in the air. When in a fearful state we tighten up, and so does our voice.

One New Year's resolution we must try to practice above all others is to keep our voice happy.

The reason people loved Luciano Pavarotti was his ability to communicate the innate joy with which he was blessed. As he made beautiful music, so too must we do the same with our voices.

Beautiful music not only touches the heart, but moves it. Our voice, when happy, contains the greatest power we can possess for fighting against fear and the dire predictions for 2009.

A call to fight for peace

The pope's 2009 World Day of Peace message

In his Jan. 1, 2009, World Day of Peace message, Pope Benedict XVI writes that in order to build peace, we must be willing to fight!

But who must we fight?

The pope mentions no one.

Then what must we fight?

To that he answers "poverty"!

Pope Benedict's peace message, titled "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace," refers to Pope John Paul II's 1993 World Day of Peace message, which warned that poverty is often a contributing factor in armed conflicts, and that these conflicts feed poverty.

It's a vicious cycle.

Quoting his beloved predecessor, Pope Benedict writes: "The gap between rich and poor has become more marked, even in the most economically developed nations. This is a problem that the conscience of humanity cannot ignore."

But many in the developed world have smothered their individual and collective consciences with consumerism, materialism, nationalism and apathy. Perhaps this is part of what Pope Benedict means when he refers to "moral underdevelopment."

After all, how is it possible for morally developed nations and individuals to ignore countless fellow human beings who suffer the debilitating effects of malnutrition, preventable diseases, dirty

water and dwellings not fit for animals?

Pope Benedict's peace message draws special attention to child poverty. With approximately 26,000 innocent children worldwide dying every day from hunger and preventable diseases, it makes compelling sense for the pope to urge us to "take the side of children" by giving priority to their basic needs.

Why can't the federal government, which continues to spend hundreds of billions of dollars for corporate bailouts, give even a fraction of that amount to bail out the world's desperately poor children?

Could it have anything to do with the fact that most citizens — even most Christians — remain silent regarding child poverty?

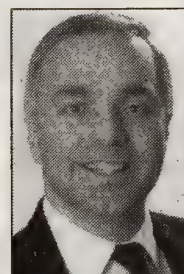
An area "needing particular attention from the moral standpoint is the relationship between disarmament and development," the pope said.

"The current level of world military expenditure gives cause for concern. ... Immense military expenditure, involving material and human resources and arms, is in fact diverted from ... the poorest who are most in need of aid," he said.

Pope Benedict warns that spending immense sums of money on the military "risks accelerating the arms race, producing pockets of underdevelopment and desperation, so

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



that it can paradoxically become a cause of instability, tension and conflict."

Here the pope is turning that popular pro-military spending slogan "peace through strength" on its illogical and immoral head. According to Pope Benedict, large militaries and weapons development breed conflict, not peace.

Quoting Pope John Paul II, Benedict writes, "The poor ask for the right to share in enjoying material goods and to make good use of their capacity for work, thus creating a world that is more just and prosperous for all."

As the new year unfolds, let's resolve to pray and work harder than ever to create a more just world where all of God's children prosper and peace reigns!

WANT MORE INFO?

A link to the pope's entire World Day of Peace message, as well as links to other poverty related resources, are available on the U.S. bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org/globalpoverty.



CNS PHOTO BY SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS

Palestinians inspect a destroyed building of Hamas TV following an Israel air strike in the Gaza Strip Dec. 28. Israel launched air strikes on Gaza in reprisal for recent rockets attacks from Gaza into Israeli territory. More than 370 Palestinians have been killed in the conflict.

Battle in a 'blind alley'

Pope deplores escalating violence in Gaza

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI deplored the latest escalation of violence in Gaza, following Israeli airstrikes that left nearly 370 people dead.

Addressing pilgrims at his noon blessing at the Vatican Dec. 28, the pope urged serious dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians as the only way out of the "perverse logic of conflict and violence."

He called for a restoration of the truce in Gaza, and said the international community has a particular responsibility to leave nothing untried in helping both sides out of the current "blind alley."

"I am deeply saddened for the dead, the wounded, the material damage, and the sufferings and tears of the people who are the victims of this tragic sequence of attacks and reprisals," the pope said.

"The earthly homeland of Jesus cannot continue to be a witness to such bloodshed, which is repeated without end! I implore the end of this violence, which must be condemned in all its forms, and a restoration of the truce in the Gaza Strip," he said.

The pope called for a fresh demonstration of "humanity and wisdom in everyone who has responsibility in the situation."

His plea came after Israeli warplanes pounded targets in Gaza for three days, striking ministries and facilities of Hamas, the Palestinian paramilitary organization that runs the Gaza Strip.

In addition to the dead, officials said at least 600 people were wounded, stretching the territory's medical facilities to the breaking point.

Israel staged the attacks in reprisal for recent rocket attacks from Gaza into Israeli territory.

Last year, Israel instituted a closure of Gaza following an escalation of Palestinian missile attacks into Israeli border towns. The closure has plunged Gaza into an economic crisis, hindering

"Hamas is a prisoner of a logic of hatred, Israel of a logic of trusting in force as the best response to hatred."

— Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi

basic social services and fueling a growing sense of frustration among the population.

Pope Benedict hopes to visit the Holy Land next May, and Israeli and Vatican officials recently began planning for the papal program there.

But Vatican sources have said a worsening of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict could alter the pope's travel plans.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told Vatican Radio Dec. 27 that the latest escalation of violence was a provocation by both sides, and showed that both Hamas and Israel were caught up in a mentality of conflict.

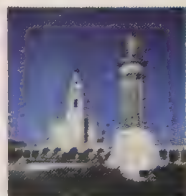
"Hamas is a prisoner of a logic of hatred, Israel of a logic of trusting in force as the best response to hatred. The need to keep looking for a different way out, even if it seems impossible," Father Lombardi said.

The spokesman said Israel's attack on Gaza was notable for its intensity and the number of victims.

"Certainly it will be a very hard blow for Hamas. At the same time, it is quite probable that there will be innocent victims, in fact many of them; hatred will increase and the hopes for peace will once again fade," he said.

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Sun., January 11 at 9:15 am and 12:15 pm

Boone - St. Elizabeth Church

Sat., January 31 at 6:15 pm
Sun., February 1 at 12:15 pm

Charlotte - St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Sat., March 14 at 7 pm
Sun., March 15 at 11 am and 1 pm

Information: (704) 370-3230

bnadcock@charlottediocese.org www.cssnc.org/naturalfamilyplanning.htm



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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 10

| PAGES 14-15

Perspectives

Convergence against
injustice; soulful time; change
we can believe in

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Catholic contingent

Number of Catholics
in Congress edging up;
more are Democrats

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The number of Catholic members of Congress is slowly creeping higher, but the Catholic contingent, like the full Congress itself, has taken a decided turn toward the Democratic Party.

When the 111th Congress was sworn in Jan. 6, more than a quarter of its members were Catholics, roughly matching the percentage of Catholics in the U.S. population and consistent with the statistical trends of the past decade.

Four years ago when the 109th Congress convened, it included 153 Catholics. Two

See CONGRESS, page 7

Galileo's jubilee

Vatican takes part
in star-studded
celebrations

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — As more than 130 countries celebrate the International Year of Astronomy, the Vatican also turned its gaze toward the heavens.

The year, which began Jan. 1, was established by the

See GALILEO, page 6

'We cry and nobody hears us'



CNS PHOTO IBRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA, REUTERS

A Palestinian firefighter shouts in front of a burning building following an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip Dec. 28, 2008. Israel launched air strikes on Gaza in reprisal for recent rocket attacks from Gaza into Israeli territory. Since the start of the airstrikes Dec. 27, at least four Israelis and more than 500 Palestinians, including 100 civilians, have been killed.

See GAZA, page 8

To establish a 'virtuous circle'

Financial crisis calls for new
economic model, solidarity, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The current financial crisis should be seen as a challenge to find new economic models that promote honesty, development, and concern for the environment, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"We need to try to establish a 'virtuous circle' of living simply and fighting poverty, the pope said Jan. 1 as he celebrated Mass for the feast of Mary Mother of God and World Peace Day.

See PEACE, page 5



CNS BY REUTERS

Children take a bath in waste water in a slum of Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 14. In his message for the Jan. 1 World Day of Peace, Pope Benedict XVI said that closing the gap between rich and poor will happen only if people listen to their consciences and "feel personally outraged by the injustices in the world."

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Culture Watch

Book on Catholic feminism;
religion TV game show

| PAGES 10-11

In Our Schools

Students explore world,
football through books

| PAGE 13

There and back again

Migrant workers come and
go to work fields

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

IN A SAINT'S FOOTSTEPS



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

Cousins Ashley Vermillion and Jena Thralls stand by a marker on campus at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, outside Terre Haute, Ind. The rock memorializes the time in 1840 when St. Mother Theodore Guerin ended a three-month journey from France and arrived in the Indiana wilderness, where she was given shelter by the ancestors of freshmen Vermillion and Thralls.

St. Mary-of-the-Woods freshmen tied to St. Mother Theodore Guerin

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. (CNS) — For cousins Jena Thralls and Ashley Vermillion, it's just a short walk from their college dorm room to the site of their family's special place in American Catholic history.

At night on the campus of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Thralls and Vermillion sometimes walk to the rock that memorializes a historic October moment 168 years ago, when St. Mother Theodore Guerin ended a three-month journey from France and arrived in the Indiana wilderness in 1840 with a dream to open an academy for girls.

The two college freshmen at times have imagined what it must have been like for Mother Theodore and the five other Sisters of Providence who traveled with her. Even more, the 18-year-old cousins have tried to imagine what it was like for their great-great-great-grandparents as they welcomed into their home the woman who in 2006 would become an American saint.

"If I could time-travel, I'd go back to that time," said Thralls, as Vermillion nodded in agreement.

Both are thrilled to have earned scholarships to St. Mary-of-the-Woods and continue the story that connects the saint and the Thralls family.

Since they were small children, the cousins have heard their grandfather's stories about the connection.

They know Mother Theodore was stunned when she finally reached her isolated destination in the deep western Indiana forest, a reaction she captured in her journal: "To our utter amazement, there was nothing in sight, not even a house. We went down a deep ravine and up on the other side, and through the trees we could see a farmhouse."

Thralls and Vermillion also know

that the farmhouse belonged to their ancestors, Joseph and Sarah Thralls, the parents of 13 children. The Thralls family welcomed the sisters into their small, primitive home, letting them use half of its rooms.

The sisters and the family shared the home until the Diocese of Vincennes, Ind., eventually purchased the Thralls property for the Sisters of Providence.

The connection with the Thralls family is still celebrated by the order.

"We will owe the Thralls family forever for what they did," said Providence Sister Barbara Doherty, director of the shrine dedicated to St. Mother Theodore on the grounds of the college.

"The attachment between the Thralls family and the Sisters of Providence is gigantic. It's a wonderful thing that (Ashley and Jena) are here," she said.

Vermillion and Thralls have tried to follow Mother Theodore's example in sharing their blessings. They are committed to community service, especially helping families in need and children in hospitals.

There's one other connection that ties the cousins to the saint. St. Mother Theodore made educating others her life's mission. Vermillion hopes to become an elementary school teacher while Thralls is considering becoming an English teacher.

After 168 years the connection between the saint and the family remains strong.

"I always think about her when I'm having struggles," Vermillion said. "She went through a lot. I think about her strength and that helps me be strong."

"It's really important to me, knowing that our family helped a saint," she added. "Not many people can say that."

More than two dozen U.S. bishops could retire for age reasons in 2009

WASHINGTON(CNS)—Following the Jan. 5 retirements of 78-year-old Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro, Ky., up to 27 more U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, could retire because of age this year.

There are 16 active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Eleven more will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2009.

At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome and a cardinal since 1985, turned 75 Nov. 4, 2006.

He was archbishop of Boston from 1984 until his resignation from that post in 2002 in the wake of controversy over his handling of cases of clergy sex abuse there. He was named to his Rome post in 2004.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New

York, whose 75th birthday was April 2, 2007, also celebrated 50 years as a priest that year.

He was made archbishop of New York in 2000 and a cardinal in 2001.

Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, who marked his 75th birthday July 26, 2007, has been the Vatican's major penitentiary since 2003.

He was president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, 1996-2003, and became a cardinal in 1998.

Following a tradition begun by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI often has asked cardinals to stay on the job after turning 75.

Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

There are 13 other active U.S. bishops who are already 75, and 11 more will turn 75 in 2009.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "Understanding the Issues That Impact Jewish-Christian Relations," the 9th annual Kennedy Lecture, will be presented by Dr. Edward Kessler, executive director of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required. For more information, call (704) 332-2901 ext. 12 or e-mail office@stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — "Women Who Walked Through Fire in Faith," a series on women evangelizers of the early church, will be presented by Barbara Reagan at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — March and pray for an end to abortion during the March for Life Charlotte Jan. 16. Marchers should gather at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and Church Sts. across from the diocesan Pastoral Center at 11 a.m. The march will proceed to Trade and Tryon Sts. at 12 p.m. and continue to the court

house at 401 W. Trade St., where participants will pray a rosary and chaplet of divine mercy. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian retreat, "Passage to Wholeness: A Retreat for Adults 40+," will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). This is a retreat for anyone seeking a more meaningful way to integrate their spirituality as they walk through the second half of life. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door. For more information or to register, call Father Alagia at the church office: (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to attend an upcoming *Theology on Tap* series, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert." This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizza/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd. Suite 100, and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. The first session will take place Jan. 15 and cover the topic "Lent: Are you Ready?" Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Bilingual instruction is available for Spanish

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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JANUARY 9, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 10



The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Birth-control pill is linked to male infertility, says Vatican paper

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The birth-control pill is causing “devastating” environmental damage and plays a role in rising male infertility rates, said the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

“We have sufficient evidence to argue that one of the considerable factors contributing to male infertility in the West — with its ever decreasing numbers of spermatozoa in men — is environmental pollution caused by the byproducts of the pill” released in human waste, the article said.

Pedro Jose Maria Simon Castellvi, president of the Vatican-based World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, wrote the article for the paper's Jan. 4 edition.

The pill has created “devastating ecological effects from tons of hormones being released into the environment for years,” the article said.

According to news reports, scientists worldwide have found sexual abnormalities in fish and other water-dwell-

ing creatures that have been exposed to sewage contaminated with synthetic estrogens and other hormones like those used in the pill. Some European studies have blamed increased male infertility and poor reproductive health on environmental causes, especially estrogenlike chemicals found in pesticides, plastic food containers, shampoos, cosmetics and other products.

The article said that, with such clear evidence of the adverse impact the pill's use has on the environment, manufacturers should offer more information about the ecological effects of the use of these synthetic hormones. Much of the public is unaware that the contraceptive pill also acts as an abortifacient because it affects an embryo's ability to implant successfully, the article said.

Castellvi urged the Vatican to create a special commission dedicated to “*Humanae Vitae*” to better inform doctors about human fertility and about natural family planning.

the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

HICKORY — An information session for men considering becoming permanent deacons will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Jan. 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (note the date has been changed from Jan. 10). Potential candidates must attend an information session to be considered for the permanent diaconate. To register, contact Deacon Scott Gilfillan at deacon.scott@att.net or Deacon George Szalony at gszalony@msn.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 13 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Jan. 15 (7 p.m.)
Respect life Mass
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

Jan. 16 (12 p.m.)
Charlotte March for Life
Charlotte

Jan. 17
Raleigh March for Life
Raleigh

Finance must serve ‘great slice’ of society, says Vatican’s UN nuncio

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Put the reeling global economy on a moral footing and give more financial trust to those who are not rich and their faith-based allies, said the Vatican's representative to the United Nations.

“Finance is not a game,” Archbishop Celestino Migliore told Catholic San Francisco in a late-December interview. “Among some big and wealthy financial agencies, they just play finances as a game.”

“Really, finance works as long as it's put in the service of the common good and especially the great slice of our society which is composed of poor people or people who are not rich,” he said.

Rich nations must not respond to today's economic crisis by retrenching to protectionism but must play an ever stronger role in global development, Archbishop Migliore said.

Recounting his address to the Nov. 29-Dec. 2 U.N.-sponsored meeting on international development in Doha, Qatar, he said stronger nations must continue their aid commitments to support some 40 countries too weak to manage on their own.

The archbishop, who serves as the Vatican's nuncio and permanent observer to the United Nations, echoed Pope Benedict XVI's message for the World Day of Peace.

Pope Benedict said the role of finance in supporting long-term investment and therefore development appears “extremely fragile.” He said the crisis demonstrates “how financial activity can at times be completely turned on itself, lacking any long-term consideration of the common good.”

Archbishop Migliore said the Vatican's prescription for a sustainable and just global economy also includes such measures as small-scale business and farm loans to the poor.

One lesson of the economic crisis, he said, is that the poor turn out to be among the best debtors because they repay their debts. He suggested that developing nations rich in resources could tax their economic output, which would help them fund their own growth instead of relying on outside aid.

He also said greater trust and cooperation between governments and nongovernmental organizations, especially faith-based groups, would cut down on the “terrible bureaucratization” that can eat up a significant part of donors' money.

The archbishop also called for greater cooperation between well-funded aid groups and the church, despite ideological differences over such issues as homosexuality and condom use.

Stock and Spirit

CNS PHOTO BY CHERYL RAVELO, REUTERS

A priest elevates the Eucharist during a Mass on the first trading day of the new year inside the Philippine Stock Exchange in Manila Jan. 5.

Church, chancery vandalized with graffiti

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Most Holy Redeemer Church in San Francisco and the administrative offices of the Archdiocese of San Francisco were vandalized in early January with graffiti critical of the church's support of Proposition 8, the California voter initiative that overturned last May's state Supreme Court ruling declaring that all

couples have the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation.

The San Francisco Police Department assigned the case to its hate crimes unit for investigation.

Chancery officials said guidelines by police for reporting and addressing such crimes were being forwarded to pastors and parish administrators.

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 2 Perspectives section, Father Shawn O'Neal's name was misspelled. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

To combat poverty

Applications invited for local CCHD grants

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Charlotte is accepting grant applications for the 2009 funding year.

CCHD makes small grants from \$500 to \$5,000 to organizations within the 46-county diocese without regard to religious affiliation. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2009.

Established in 1970 as the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty, social justice program, CCHD is a response to the biblical call for justice for the poor. It now is one of the largest private funders of self-help programs initiated and led by poor people in the United States.

The Diocese of Charlotte CCHD Committee solicits programs and projects that:

- seek to affect the root causes of poverty in the target community;
- involve active participation of the people served in the planning

and decision-making of the sponsoring organization;

— indicate potential for institutional change, empowerment of the people and community involved, and the development of local leadership;

— conform to Catholic social teaching.

WANT TO APPLY?

Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2009. For more information or an application, contact Mary Jane Bruton, CCHD diocesan director, at (704) 370-3234 or mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

An application and a sample grant are available on the Catholic Social Services Web site at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

To obtain the application as an e-mail attachment in an MS Word document, e-mail mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

Awarding angels

Holy Angels honors nearly 300 employees

BELMONT — Holy Angels recently honored nearly 300 employees for service and dedication.

The annual Employee Christmas Celebration and Awards Dinner was held Dec. 22.

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation in Belmont that provides residential services and programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

During the event, Dennis Kuhn, Holy Angels chief operating officer, announced the winners.

The Achievement of Excellence award categories and winners were:

— Relief Staff: Eula Hoyle. Hoyle has worked at Holy Angels since 1994. Relief Staff usually consists of working every other weekend or on an on-call basis.

— Related Service Professional: Sandra Smith, environmental services assistant; an employee since February 2003. This award category includes both professionals and para-professionals whose work supports, but is not directly related to, Holy Angels programs.

— Program Professional: Cathey Hamm, special education teacher; an employee since May 1988.

— Supported Employment: Thomas S., a resident; an employee of Holy Angels' Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in Belmont for more than two years.

— Direct Service Professional: Joann McKinney, health care assistant;

an employee since March 1988. The award recognizes employees who work directly with the residents, on any shift, in a full-time or part-time capacity.

The Beth Withers Make a Difference award winner was Joanne Sigmon, employee health and safety director and volunteer coordinator; an employee since January 1985.

The Maria T. Morrow Spirit Award was Stella Bommarito, physical therapy director; an employee since October 1982.

The Dr. C. Ellis Fisher Caring Hands, Caring Heart award winner was William Kays Gary, longtime supporter of Holy Angels.

The President's Award for Excellence winner was Constance Collins, group homemaker of SouthPoint Community Group Home in Belmont.

The Someone Special Award winner was Jan Bilas, a 10-year employee at Holy Angels, in honor of his receipt of U.S. citizenship in 2008.

The Rising Star award winners were Oxana Tucker, Marlon Deacon, Charlotte Laird, Angie Vause, Alexandra Hall, Mike Johnson, Chrissy Tidwell, Megan Haskins and B.J. Pelto.

The Above and Beyond the Call of Duty award winners were Brenda Barker, Brenda Morgan, Oxana Tucker, Ron Vaughn, Christine Ruiz, Courtney Payseur, Charlotte Laird, Sister Jill Weber, Shameka Gordon, Angie Vause, Deborah Adams, Myra Wilson, Chrissy Tidwell, Rasmee Insomphou, Stefanie Mecklenborg, Rebecca Craighead, Madeline Foxx and Sonya Hudson.

Cultural caretaking



COURTESY PHOTO

Members and family of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Sons of Erin-Division stand outside the gate of historic St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly Jan. 3. The Hibernians performed landscaping and clean-up work on the church property.

Hibernians clean up grounds of historic Catholic church

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MOUNT HOLLY — A group of Irish-Americans recently spent a day taking care of one of the oldest standing Catholic churches in North Carolina.

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Sons of Erin Division in Mecklenburg County performed landscaping and other clean-up work on the grounds and cemetery of St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly Jan. 3. The effort was part of the Hibernians' bi-annual service project at the historic church.

"The AOH does this because it is our chance to give back to those who came before us," said Matt Crowley, project chairman. "I think it is in us as Irish-Catholics to give back, whether it be in volunteer work or in donations."

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, founded in New York in 1836, describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States. The Church of St. Joseph and Mary, known as St. Joseph Church since the Civil War, was built by Irish immigrant gold miners in the 1800s.

The small, white clapboard church accommodates about 100 people. It has no electricity, no bathroom; six large windows were used to light and heat the church.

A small room for a priest is located at the rear of the church; on the Spartan walls are 19th-century photographs showing Catholicism's roots in North Carolina at this tiny church.

After the Civil War, all but one of St. Joseph Church's families remained, and when Belmont Abbey opened nearby in 1876, area Catholics were relegated under the care of the Benedictine monks.

St. Joseph Church was mostly neglected over the years. A badly deteriorated roof offered little resistance to the elements, and only two shutters remained intact. In the early 1970s, the church was restored to its original splendor. The exterior, altar and pews regained their 19th century charm.

In 1979, the church was designated as a National Historical Site by the State of North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Interior. In October 1993, Msgr. John McSweeney, then-diocesan administrator, celebrated the sesquicentennial anniversary Mass of St. Joseph Church.

The continuing efforts of volunteers — Hibernians, Catholics and non-Catholics alike — have helped with the upkeep of the church.

"It is important that we pass on what was given to us. Hopefully we leave it better than we received it," said Crowley.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more or to visit St. Joseph Church, call (704) 825-9600.

To learn more about the AOH Sons of Erin Division, visit <http://ncaoh.homestead.com>.

ATTENTION READERS!

HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a religious news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event? If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Pope: Financial crisis calls for new economic model

PEACE, from page 1

During the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and reciting the Angelus afterward with people gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict focused on the 2009 World Peace Day theme, "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace."

But he also called for an end to the "massive violence" in the Gaza Strip and offered special prayers for "the small, but fervent parish in Gaza."

"We place at the feet of Mary our concerns for the present and our fears for the future, but also our well-founded hope that with the wise and farsighted contributions of everyone it will not be impossible to listen to one another, meet together and give a concrete response to the widespread aspiration to live in peace, security and dignity," the pope said.

Pope Benedict prayed for peace throughout the Middle East, accepted the offertory gifts from a group of children from Lebanon and listened as a prayer was read in Arabic asking God to inspire people to combat poverty as a contribution to peacemaking.

Solidarity protects dignity

In his homily, the pope said he imagines Mary often asked herself: "Why did Jesus want to be born of a simple and humble young woman like me? And why did he want to come into the world in a stall and have those Bethlehem shepherds as his first visitors?"

After Jesus' death, he said, Mary understood that "God became poor for us, to enrich us with his poverty full of love, to exhort us to stop the insatiable greed that gives rise to fighting and division, to invite us to moderate our mania to possess and, in that way, to make us open to sharing and welcoming one another."

Poverty chosen as a way of life to demonstrate the primacy of God and of love for others is not the same thing as the kind of poverty experienced by millions of the world's people,

"There is a kind of poverty, an indigence, that God does not want and that must be fought."

— Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict said.

"There is a kind of poverty, an indigence, that God does not want and that must be fought," he said, adding that it is "a poverty that impedes people and families from living according to their dignity, a poverty that offends justice and equality and, as such, threatens peaceful coexistence."

While AIDS and other diseases spread, while children live without basic necessities and millions of families struggle to find food, the pope said, "the unacceptable arms race" continues.

"On one hand, there are celebrations for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while on the other hand there is an increase in military spending in violation of the United Nations' charter, which commits nations to reduce them to a minimum," he said.

Solidarity, not a weapons system, is the key to protecting human dignity and ensuring peace, the pope said.

Challenge for the future

Turning to the current global economic crisis, the pope asked: "Are we ready to read it, in all its complexity, as a challenge for the future and not just as an emergency needing short-term responses?"

"Are we ready to conduct together a profound revision of the dominant model of development in order to correct it in a concerted and farsighted way?"

"Even more than the immediate financial difficulties, the ecological state of the planet and, especially, the cultural and moral crisis whose symptoms have long been evident in many parts of the world require it," he said.

The solution, Pope Benedict said, must be based on adopting a moderate lifestyle and making a commitment to living in solidarity with those whose dignity is threatened by poverty and by war.



CNS PHOTO BY GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

Children bring up the eucharistic gifts as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass for the feast of Mary Mother of God and World Peace Day Jan. 1 in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square after the Mass and greeting hundreds of people who had participated in a march for peace sponsored by the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community, the pope said Christians are called to live with hope for the future.

"It is not a matter of trusting in better luck or in modern maneuvers of the market and of finance, but of each one of us making a commitment to being just a bit better and more responsible and to counting on the goodness of the Lord," he said.

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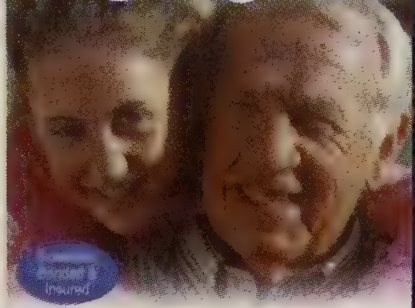
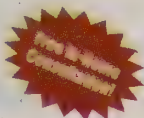
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FROM THE COVER

Vatican takes part in star-studded celebrations

GALILEO, from page 1

United Nations to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first use of the telescope to observe the cosmos.

The Vatican also is celebrating the star-studded jubilee year, as the Vatican Museums, the Vatican Observatory and other Vatican offices participate in several special initiatives.

In late December, Pope Benedict XVI rang in the year of astronomy early by sending his greetings to those participating in the yearlong celebration.

The pope repeatedly has praised Galileo, calling him a man of faith who "saw nature as a book written by God."

The pope also has said the discoveries of science and astronomy can help people better appreciate the wonders of God's creation.

As part of the astronomy year, Vatican astronomer Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno is one of more than 50 scientists from around the world who is contributing to a new Cosmic Diary blog.

The U.S. Jesuit and other contributors reveal in the blog — www.cosmicdiary.org — what it's like to be an astronomer and explain details of their research.

The Vatican Observatory also will help organize a week on astrobiology at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in November.

Astrobiology studies life in the universe and is hot on the hunt for extraterrestrial life and the so-called "Goldilocks planet." Like the porridge this childhood storybook character gobbles up, it's a theoretical planet that is not too hot and not too cold, but just the right distance from the sun to sustain life.

The observatory also is partnering with the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State to publish a book on the history of astronomy and the Vatican.

In June a weeklong international symposium will cover the role of astronomy in the 21st century, science education and the dialogue that is needed between science and culture.

A special exhibit will open in October at the Vatican Museums displaying historical astronomical instruments. It will showcase antique instruments, spanning time from Galileo to models of the enormous telescopes used in astronomical research today.

Lastly, a large statue of Galileo is supposed to be erected somewhere on Vatican grounds. Paid for through private donations, the work of art was commissioned by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences to honor the 17th-century scientist. So far, there has been no word yet on when the statue will move into its new home.

Science and faith

Some church leaders expressed how the celebrations finally will put to rest the long suspicion that the church is hostile toward science.

"The church in some way recognized its mistakes" regarding Galileo.

— Jesuit Father José Funes

Only 16 years have passed since Pope John Paul II formally acknowledged that the church erred when it condemned the Italian astronomer for maintaining that the earth revolved around the sun.

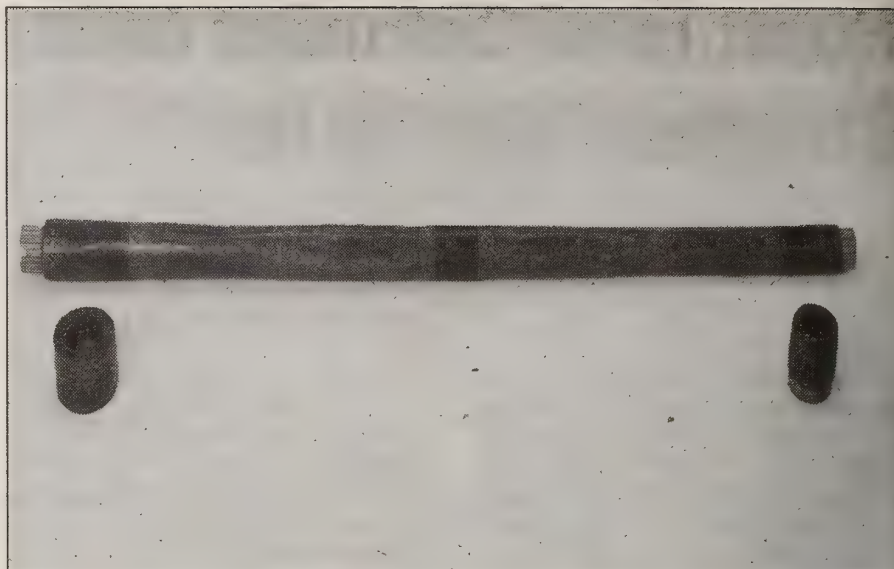
Even though it happened some 400 years ago, "the dramatic clash of some churchmen with Galileo has left wounds that are still open," wrote Jesuit Father José Funes, director of the Vatican Observatory, in the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*.

He said the Galileo case may never be closed in a way that would make everyone happy.

"The church in some way recognized its mistakes" regarding Galileo but "perhaps it could have done better: One can always do better," he wrote, adding that he hoped the year would help smooth strained relations between faith and science.

One Vatican official recently proposed that Galileo would make "the ideal patron saint for dialogue between science and faith."

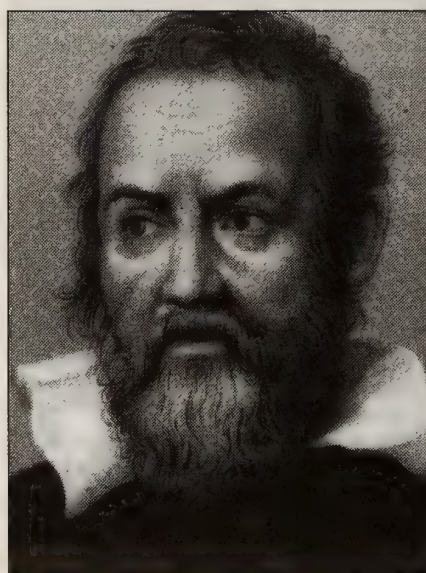
Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN FLORENCE, ITALY

Above: This image shows Galileo Galilei's original telescope. Between 1608 and early 1610 he developed the first instrument that combined glass lenses for a closer view of the cosmos. The International Year of Astronomy coincides with the 400th anniversary of the first use of the telescope.

At left: Galileo Galilei is depicted in this illustration.



CNS PHOTO FROM BETTMANN ARCHIVE

Culture, told Vatican Radio that Galileo, as a man of science and faith, showed the two were compatible as long as each operated within its specific field.

The good that came from the "dark shadow" of Galileo's condemnation was discovering theology should never, as it had during Galileo's time, use science to

prove religious objectives especially in ways that hinder scientific study, he said.

But, he added, science also must not look down on theology as intellectually inferior — as if it were a kind of depository for a "Paleolithic intellect of the past."

The archbishop made the comments while he was participating in the culture council's congress on "Science 400 Years After Galileo Galilei." Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, also participated in the November congress.

Cardinal Bertone said Galileo helped transform the nature of knowledge so that it would no longer be based on the certainties established by tradition, but on the truth derived from scientific experimentation.

However, he added, science must not completely divorce itself from moral traditions and laws that can help ensure that scientific developments remain ethical and at the true service of humanity.

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FROM THE COVER

Number of Catholics in Congress edging up

CONGRESS, from page 1

years later there were 155 Catholics in the 110th Congress.

But the new group of senators and representatives has 162 members who identify themselves as Catholics.

With nearly all the 2008 electoral battles settled by early December, and the Senate seat of President-elect Barack Obama still not filled, the Catholic delegation included 17 Democrats and nine Republicans in the Senate and 98 Democrats and 38 Republicans in the House.

At the start of the 110th Congress in January 2007, there were 25 Catholic senators (16 Democrats and nine Republicans) and 130 Catholic House members (88 Democrats and 42 Republicans).

Two years earlier, the 109th Congress counted 24 Catholic senators (13 Democrats and 11 Republicans) and 129 Catholic House members (72 Democrats and 57 Republicans).

That's a far cry from the start of the 80th Congress in January 1947, when 11 senators and 67 House members were Catholic, according to an article by Jesuit Father Edward Dunn in the December 1948 issue of the American Catholic Sociological Review.

Only 26 of the 78 Catholic members of the 80th Congress were Republicans; one belonged to the American Labor Party of New York and the rest were Democrats.

"Catholics, then, make up 11.5 percent of the members of the Senate and 15.4 percent of the members of the

House of Representatives," Father Dunn wrote. "This is not up to the ratio of Catholics in the total population, which is estimated at about 18 percent."

Musical chairs

Today the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, based at Georgetown University in Washington, estimates that Catholics make up 22 percent of the U.S. population.

But they are at least 26 percent of the Senate membership, depending on who fills Obama's seat, and more than 30 percent of the House membership.

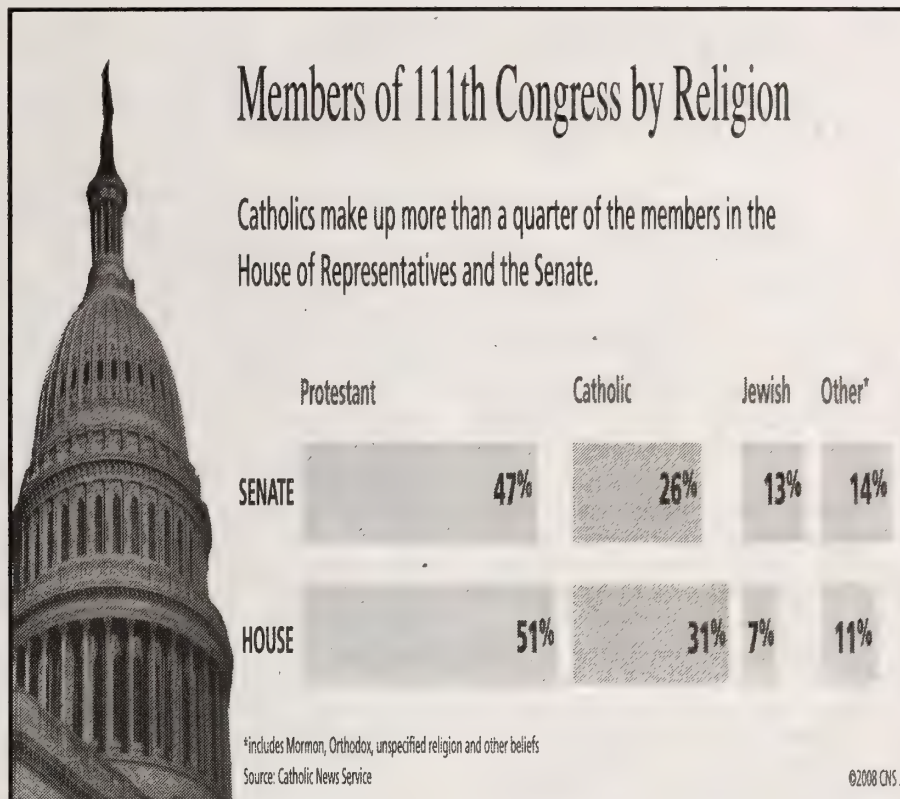
The numbers are fluid, however, as members of Congress resign to take different posts and their seats are filled by others.

Vice President-elect Joseph Biden, for example, still officially represents Delaware in the Senate, although he plans to step down sometime before the Jan. 20 inauguration.

A Catholic, Biden is to be succeeded by one of his top political aides, Ted Kaufman, who was appointed to the post by Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and is also a Catholic.

Among the Catholics who will have to resign from the incoming Congress if confirmed for Cabinet positions are Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado, whom Obama has said he will nominate as interior secretary, and Rep. Hilda Solis of California, the president-elect's choice as labor secretary.

Other Catholic Cabinet nominees not serving in the 111th Congress include former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Obama's pick as secretary of health and human services; former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack,



to be nominated as agriculture secretary; and Rep. Ray LaHood, a Republican who has represented Illinois in Congress since 1994 but who did not run for re-election in 2008.

Depending on who gets appointed to fill the vacated seats of those in Congress, the number of Catholics could remain the same or even increase.

For example, the person most widely discussed to succeed New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Methodist who is to be nominated as secretary of state in the Obama administration, is Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the nation's first Catholic president.

Another congressional seat needing to be filled will be that of Rep. Rahm Emanuel, Obama's White House chief of staff, who is Jewish.

Overall, the religious breakdown in Congress has remained relatively stable

in recent years. After the 162 Catholics, the religious denominations with the most members in the 111th Congress are Baptists, with 64; Methodists, with 55; and Jews, with 45.

Forty-two members of the 111th Congress identify themselves as either Protestant or Christian, with no denomination named, while seven said they had no religious affiliation.

Other religious groupings with more than a dozen members in the incoming Congress include Presbyterians (43); Episcopalians (39); Lutherans (24); and Mormons (13). Eight members identify themselves as belonging to an Orthodox church.

Two members of the incoming Congress are Muslim and two are Buddhist. The remainder are divided among more than a dozen other Christian denominations.

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Friday, January 16 at 12 noon.

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NC Right to Life Prayer Breakfast and

March for Life/Raleigh — Saturday, January 17

Call 1-800-392-6275 or visit: ncrtl.org.

March for Life/Washington, D.C. —

Thursday, January 22

Mass at 11:30 am, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge

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Additional information: nchla.org or 704-370-3229

For information, call Maggi Nadol,
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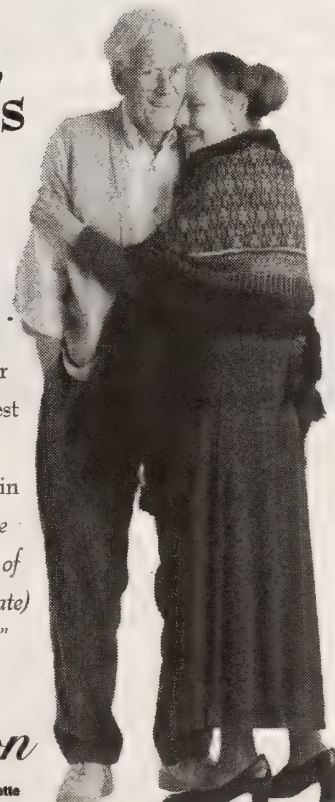


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Priest says Gaza 'drowning in blood'

GAZA, from page 1

the Holy Land attended the Mass at St. Stephen Church while local and international Christians gathered elsewhere in Israel and the West Bank to pray for a halt to the violence in Gaza.

When Israel began its military operation in Gaza in late December, the heads of Christian churches in the Holy Land called for Jan. 4 to be a day of prayer for peace.

At St. Stephen Church, retired Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem said the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip means death for both sides.

"What is happening now is death for Palestinians as well as Israelis," Patriarch Sabbah said at the Mass.

"What is happening in Gaza has made us all come to pray and join in a prayer that says stop the massacre. We are calling to God to look at Gaza and see what is happening there and to all of us," he said.

"Peace only can come through justice, not war, Patriarch Sabbah said.

"We are looking at ourselves and we are not doing our best. Israel should stop this and will stop, but then after this destruction there will be more destruction," he said.

He called on Palestinians to realize that the only way to regain their freedom and independence is through nonviolent means.

Earlier in the day at St. Catherine Church, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, Christians attended a special Mass.

"This is genocide," said Bethlehem resident Adel Sahouri, 70, who attended the Mass.

"Israel is so strong and has all the weapons the world can afford. What does Hamas have? Just rockets, nothing," said Sahouri.

Israel launched a ground attack in Gaza Jan. 3 after several days of airstrikes to stop the Palestinian militant group Hamas from launching rockets into Israel. Since the start of the airstrikes

Dec. 27, at least four Israelis and more than 500 Palestinians, including 100 civilians, have been killed.

Israel says that during the past year Iranian-backed terrorist groups in Gaza have fired more than 3,000 rockets, missiles and mortars at civilian targets in the southern Negev region of Israel.

In a center pew of St. Catherine Church, Victor Zoughbi knelt in prayer.

He told Catholic News Service after Mass he was praying "not just for the people in Gaza but also for those in Tel Aviv. Every (Israeli) soldier going into Gaza now has a mother who is sitting glued to the television with her heart in her throat. He who truly has God in his heart loves everybody."

Zoughbi said he did not understand the purpose of Hamas' rockets, given their inaccuracy, and he emphasized the fact that there is only one Palestinian government headed by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

In June 2007, Hamas split with Abbas' Fatah movement and took control of the Gaza Strip. Abbas' government still controls the West Bank.

"What are we fighting over — for a piece of land? Take the land. In the end the land will swallow us all," he said, noting that, given the situation, he was not able to speak so freely with many of his friends and acquaintances lest his loyalty be called into question.

After the Mass in Bethlehem more than 50 worshippers — carrying a flower wreath, placards calling for peace, a black mourning flag and a Palestinian flag — processed around Manger Square reciting Psalm 50, traditionally said at funerals.

A buzz began in some of the small groups gathered outside the church as a rumor circulated that Hamas had taken some Israeli soldiers hostage. Israel denied the claim, and the rumor later proved to be false.

"What is going on is war and I am praying to stop it. I am not waiting for people to hear (my prayer); I am waiting for God and, whatever God's plan is, we will follow," said Rosemarie Nasser, 55.

"No one understands that God has his own time. So many times in our lives God uses the bad for good," she said.

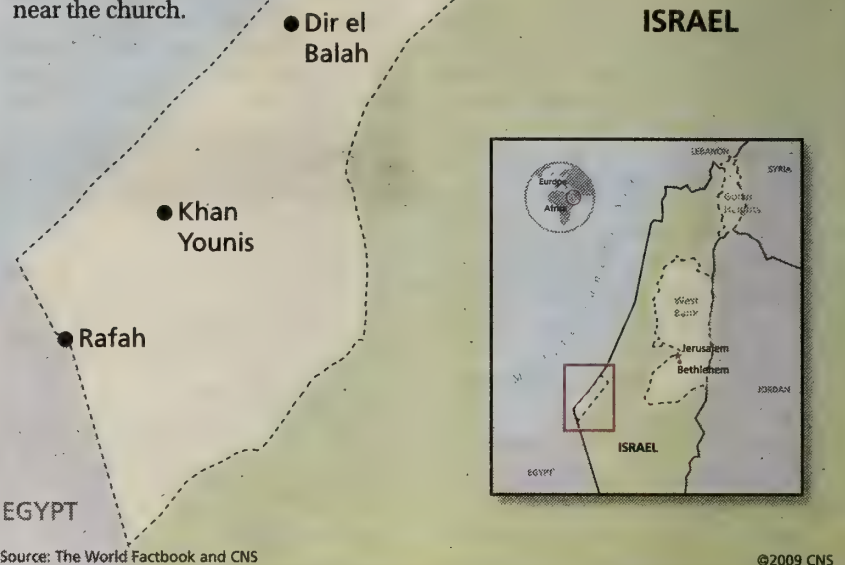
Gaza Strip

At about 25 miles in length, the strip covers an area twice the size of the District of Columbia.

Population: 1.5 million

Muslims make up more than 99 percent of the population.

There are a small number of Christians and one Catholic church, located in Gaza City. The Missionaries of Charity operate a home for disabled children and elderly women near the church.



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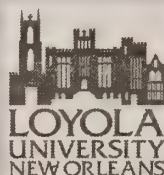
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Pope calls for Gaza peace talks, deplores violence in Congo

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — As fighting continued in the Gaza Strip, Pope Benedict XVI urged Israelis and Palestinians to end the violent, armed clashes and start peace talks.

"Hatred and the rejection of dialogue bring nothing but war," he said after reciting the Angelus Jan. 6 with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Today I would like to encourage the initiatives and efforts of all those who, having a heart of peace, are trying to help Israelis and Palestinians agree to sit down together and talk," he said.

He prayed God would help sustain the dedicated efforts of these "courageous builders of peace."

The pope also appealed for an end to the "inhumane brutality" unfolding in eastern Congo where some 20 children were abducted over the Christmas period by armed bandits who launched attacks against villages, leaving many people dead or injured.

Caritas Congo reported Dec. 29 that the children were abducted as child soldiers for the Lord's Resistance Army — a Ugandan rebel group. Caritas Congo is the local affiliate of the international Catholic umbrella group Caritas Internationalis.

Caritas said violence in the region flared in late December leaving hundreds of people dead. It said 50 bodies were found in the courtyard of a Catholic church in Doruma on Christmas morning.

The pope urged those responsible for such "inhumane brutality to give the (kidnapped) children back to their families" so that the future of these young people may be safe and fruitful.

The pope made the appeals on the feast of the Epiphany, which is a national holiday in Italy and is largely



CNS PHOTO BY SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS

Smoke rises over Gaza City Jan. 6. The same day in nearby Jebaliya, Israeli tank shells killed at least 30 Palestinians at a U.N. school where civilians had taken shelter, medical officials said.

dedicated to children.

He said he was praying for the world's children, especially those experiencing a troubled childhood.

The violence against children worldwide "appears even more appalling considering that 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child," he said.

He called on world leaders to renew their promises to defend, safeguard and foster the development of the world's children.

Pope Benedict noted that the Epiphany was dedicated to the Holy Childhood Association, a children-supported missionary organization that works in more than 100 countries. He thanked young people for their support of works that are designed to aid the world's needy.

Caritas Internationalis president calls for Gaza cease-fire

People dying due to lack of treatment

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, president of Caritas Internationalis, called for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip to allow the wounded and their physicians to reach the region's hospitals.

"Caritas calls for action from the United States, the European Union and the international community to press for an immediate cease-fire to enable the sick and wounded to be treated," said the cardinal, the archbishop of Tegucigalpa, in a statement Jan. 5.

"War cannot be justified either by Israel or by Hamas," the Palestinian militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, the cardinal said.

Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella organization for 162 national Catholic charities, also called for the immediate opening of two more crossings into the Gaza Strip so that medical and other aid can reach the region's people.

The Caritas statement quoted Claudette Habesch, secretary-general of Caritas Jerusalem, as saying: "Our staff in Gaza are witnessing a collapse of medical services. People are dying in their homes because they can't get treatment."

Cardinal Rodriguez noted that more than 100 innocent civilians, including children, have been killed and thousands have been injured since Israel began its offensive in late December.

"Innocent people are suffering because aid agencies cannot reach them due to the Israeli military action," he said.

The Caritas statement said it was unsafe for people to move around in Gaza, meaning both doctors and the injured cannot reach the clinics and doctors cannot reach the homes of the injured.

Food, medicine and other relief items already were lacking because of the 18-month-long Israeli blockade of Gaza, Caritas said.

"War cannot be justified either by Israel or by Hamas."

— Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez

Caritas Internationalis is providing primary medical services through Caritas Jerusalem and Holy Family Parish in Gaza City, the statement said. A medical center and a series of aid stations remained operational, although with difficulty, but the mobile clinic has had to remain stationary.

Local staffers for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, which works with the Caritas network, were among those unable to move around Gaza because of the Israeli incursion, said Matthew Davis, CRS country representative for Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

"The continued insecurity of the environment makes the coordination of aid distribution incredibly difficult," he said. "There is a need for a permanent and sustainable humanitarian space and a need for access to supplies and staff and the ability to distribute aid and make assessments."

Davis noted that Israel has not permitted humanitarian workers into Gaza since Nov. 4 because of what they deemed to be security issues.

"The Israeli ground invasion has turned everything upside down and made things even more complicated," he said. "It is going from bad to worse."

Contributing to this story was Judith Sudilovsky in Jerusalem.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Author has firm grasp on shifting landscape of Catholic feminism

REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

With "Catholic and Feminist: The Surprising History of the American Catholic Feminist Movement," Mary J. Henold, a professor of history at Roanoke College in Salem, Va., has written an original and accessible narrative about 20 years of grass-roots efforts by Catholic feminists, both laywomen and women religious, to effect change in the American Catholic Church.

Henold, who is clearly sympathetic to the efforts of these women, has an impressive command of the complex, shifting landscape of organizations, individuals, and theological and political issues that were aspects of this decentralized movement.

"Catholic and Feminist" is clearly written and suitable for a general audience, but the inclusion of a 12-page bibliography of primary and secondary sources makes it a particularly rich resource for academic study. One of Henold's objectives is to "challenge the concept of Catholic feminism as an offshoot of secular feminism."

"Catholic feminists have unexpected origins that from the beginning mark them as substantially different from nonreligious feminists within the larger feminist movement. They are different because, in large part, Catholic feminism was not imported into the church; it grew organically within Catholicism."

Henold discusses mid-20th-century movements that "laid the groundwork for a critique of church power and control from a position of loyalty," including groups associated with the lay apostolate (the Catholic Worker, Friendship House, the Grail and the Christian Family Movement) and "new nuns" influenced by the Sister Formation Conference.

Most studies identify Catholic feminism with organized efforts around women's ordination, which began in the 1970s. Henold, however, contends that women's thinking began to change in the '60s, when "a small but growing number of educated laywomen and women religious ... provided the first counterpoint to the postwar American Catholic rhetoric of the 'eternal woman.'"

This was an ideology that promoted "an image of woman as pious, pure, submissive, domestic and confined to the private sphere."

"Exhortations to women to sacrifice their lives to the point of self-effacement were ubiquitous in American Catholic periodicals" and Henold shows how early feminists opposed this ideology and, in the words of the theologian Hilda Graef, began "demythologizing ourselves. Catholic feminists began at rock bottom, then, constructing new identities for Catholic women, establishing their existence as individuals with unique personalities, human imperfections and

the right to self-determination."

Appropriately, therefore, one of the strengths of this book is Henold's succinct portraits of women religious, activists, theologians and writers. She identifies the personal influences on their intellectual journeys, their professional successes and failures, fruitful detours and disappointments.

The central contribution of "Catholic and Feminist" is Henold's clear explanation of the histories, rivalries and changing agendas of major feminist organizations, including the Deaconess Movement; the National Coalition of American Nuns; the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual; Chicago Catholic Women; the Women's Ordination Conference; and Women-Church.

Because of its fluid nature it is difficult to write a history of activism, but Henold does an admirable job analyzing changes in goals, ideological nuances, tensions between laywomen and women religious, strategic policy decisions, the challenges of racial minorities to a largely white movement, stances on women's ordination and the nature of ministry.

She pays close attention to efforts to legitimize women's groups on a diocesan level and attempts to dialogue with American bishops. A particularly interesting chapter discusses the importance of liturgy in Catholic feminism.

Liturgy was "a vital center of activism because Catholic feminists, being largely women of faith who named God as central to their existence, had a powerful need to define feminism as something holy."

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the women profiled in this book consistently refused to choose "between their loyalties to feminism and Catholicism." They had been inspired by the vision of renewal promised by the Second Vatican Council and understood their feminism as an expression of justice. By the end of the 1980s, however, many had "retreated to the margins or simply said goodbye to the institutional church."

In discussing a vigil held in response to the Vatican's 1977 "Declaration on the Question of the Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood," Henold comments that, "for the organizers, rage and reconciliation were not inconsistent." This tension is the central theme of "Catholic and Feminist" and, more broadly, a metaphor for the book itself.

Henold has married her scholarship and training as a historian with her commitment to a "liberated Catholicism in which Catholic women understand that the unjust institutional power structure does not have the power to define them, or imprison them, or even reject them."

The result is a well-written analysis of an important aspect of contemporary American Catholicism.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 18, 2009

Jan. 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel) John 1:35-42

Catholics must say 'yes' to serve God

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I haven't seen the current movie, "Yes Man," but I know from the ads what the story line is: A man with a fundamental attitude of reticence turns down every offer or invitation he ever gets.

But when he realizes this has caused him to miss a wealth of opportunities and experiences in life, he decides to make a radical change: to say "yes" to every possibility.

My friend Eric is that kind of yes man, saying yes to every request, every opportunity. He's also the kind of yes man that Samuel was in this week's first reading.

Eric said yes to the Lord's calling when he became a permanent deacon. Once ordained, he continued to say yes to every chance to be God's servant.

He and his wife have four children and an active family life while also maintaining a thriving dental practice. His friends and parishioners know he's

admired by his patients, but we wonder just when he ever sees them.

Because it seems that he's always visiting a nursing home or hospital, teaching a class, working on multiple marriage cases for the diocesan tribunal or studying Scripture and the lives of the saints, or officiating at a funeral or counseling confirmation candidates.

He never turns down an opportunity to serve.

I've heard other friends say that Eric sleeps only two or three hours a night getting up at 4 a.m. to pray. That may be an exaggeration to describe his seemingly bottomless well of enthusiasm, but it is so Samuel-like that Eric would rise in the dark to hear his Lord speak to him — and to listen.

Knowing that, one realizes the source of his energy and commitment to constantly minister to God's people.

As a result, Eric is a model servant to his community. His positive yes-man speak-Lord-your-servant-is-listening attitude holds sway as he ministers with vigor and strength.

Consequently, like Samuel, the words he speaks are never "without effect" among those he serves.

When we hear God's voice, Eli tells us, we are to respond with openness and willingness to serve him. Such self-offering will allow God to work through us — and promises transformation.

Questions:

When was a recent occasion that you said yes to a specific opportunity to serve God? How did your openness to hear him speak through your action?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 11-17

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Mark 1:7-11; Monday, Hebrews 1:1-6, Mark 1:14-20; Tuesday (St. Hilary), Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; Wednesday, Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; Thursday, Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; Friday, Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; Saturday (St. Anthony), Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 18-24

Sunday (Second Sunday of Ordinary Time), 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19, 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42; Monday, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; Tuesday (St. Fabian, St. Sebastian), Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-38; Wednesday (St. Agnes), Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; Thursday (St. Vincent), Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; Friday, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; Saturday (St. Francis de Sales), Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21.

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Boston religion TV game show proves popular

BOSTON (CNS) — The boosters of Boston religion TV game show think of as being styled after "Jeopardy!"

But in looking at the age of the contestants, it could well pass for an even younger version of "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?"

The program in question is "Wow!" Sometimes it goes by its full name — Wow! The CatholicTV Challenge.

It has been produced for the past three years by CatholicTV, a television ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston founded more than 50 years ago.

In the half-hour show, three third-graders, usually from the same school, try to show off what they know about their Catholic faith.

Father Robert Reed, a Boston archdiocesan priest who is director of CatholicTV, devised "Wow!" and hosts. He also stands ready to fill in the gaps in the contestants' knowledge — and the answers as well — with details on the issue at hand.

"Feedback was excellent, especially from parents," said Chris Pham, a spokesman for the show, in an e-mail exchange with Catholic News Service.

"The show is clean, educational and, unlike most parentally approved shows, kids actually want to watch the show,"

he said.

Pham noted, "One parent called — she was also a religious education teacher — and asked if she could have the questions from the show so that she could use them for her class. She wanted to set up a little 'Wow!' show in her classroom."

The young contestants come to the studio with their teachers for a taping, generally all conducted over summer vacation.

"The teachers typically are smiling and laughing when they leave," Pham said. "They find it pleasing to show the kids that the faith can be fun and enjoyable."

He added, "The children tend to take the competition very seriously. They spend hours in preparation at their schools."

Father Reed himself has to write, on average, 70 questions plus answers and additional information for each show, which amounts to about 1,400 questions by the time a season's worth of shows is taped.

Each show has a theme, such as the sacraments, saints or another Catholic category. The theme is introduced by an animated dog — voiced by Father Reed.

Each show features three rounds of three students each. The winners of those



CNS PHOTO BY GEORGE MARTELL, COURTESY CATHOLICTV

Host Father Robert Reed sits with young contestants on the set of the game show "Wow!" in mid-May. Father Reed is a Boston archdiocesan priest who devised the Catholic program and also serves as director of CatholicTV.

rounds face off against each other in a final round.

Each show's winner gets prizes — typically, a set of DVDs.

About 50 installments of "Wow!" have been produced. Archived shows can be accessed online at www.catholicTV.org.

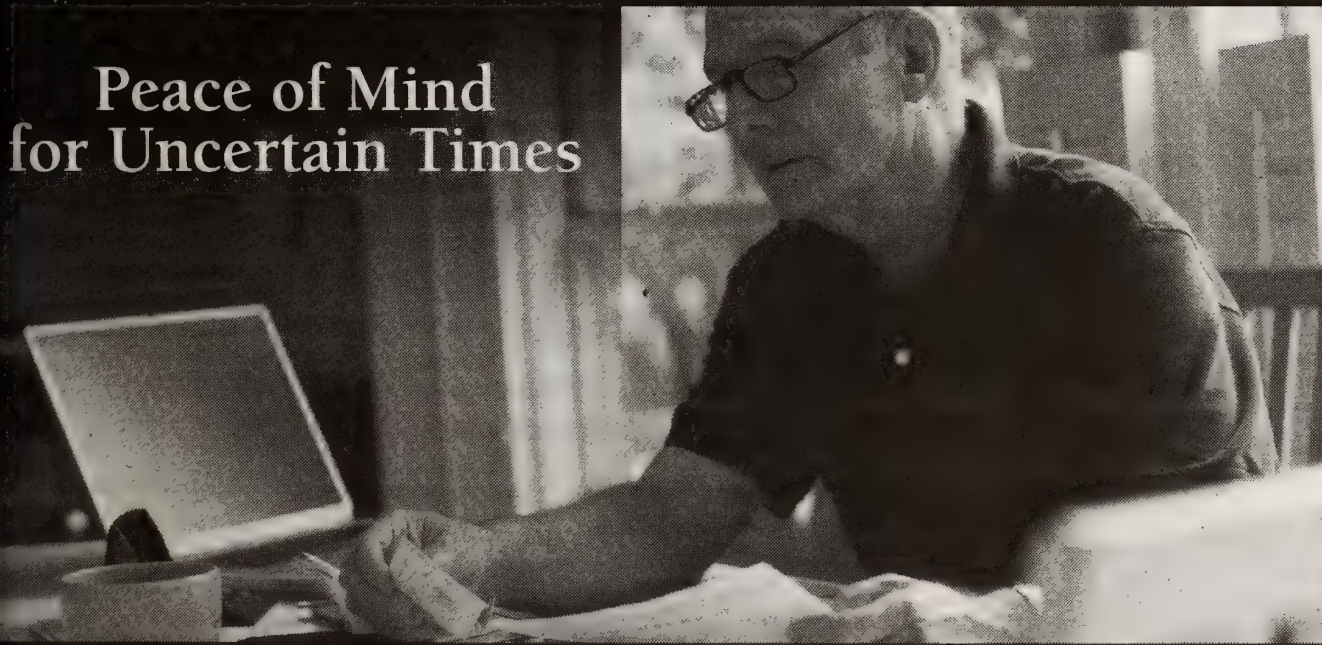
To catch the latest episodes, computer users can watch at the same time the Boston TV audience is watching: 6:30 p.m. Mondays, 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 1 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays, 1 p.m. Fridays, 8 p.m. and midnight Saturdays, and 9 a.m. Sundays.

In addition to "Wow!," CatholicTV's lineup includes other family-friendly and educational shows as well as religious and news programming, according to a news release.

Programs are available online anytime but also can be seen on cable in selected areas in the U.S. and Canada and via Sky Angel IPTV, which is Internet protocol television that uses a broadband connection.

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Hindu filmmakers call St. Bernadette's message relevant today

PANAJI, India (CNS) — A recent film on St. Bernadette Soubirous shows how ordinary people can make a difference, said the film's producer and director, both Hindus from India.

V.R. Gopinath, who directed "Our Lady of Lourdes," said he made the movie because the saint's modest way of living, dedication to her ideals and faithfulness to her call are "important messages to the present society."

St. Bernadette first saw Mary in 1858 in Lourdes, in southern France.

The movie, which premiered Dec. 21, 2007 in Panaji, was shot in the southern state of Kerala. Ajna Noiseux, a 14-year-old girl of French origin living in Kerala, plays St. Bernadette.

"The movie shows that an ordinary person, without money, can make a difference in the world," said Kamalakhar Rao, the producer. "St. Bernadette's story is of selfless service."

Rao's visits to Lourdes and the encouragement of Archbishop Joji Marampudi of Hyderabad helped him complete the film.

At the 2008 French film festival on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette, the film attracted rave reviews from the French media, particularly because it was made "by a Hindu," Rao said, adding the movie has "universal appeal."

St. Bernadette shunned the attention that followed the Marian visions. She entered religious life and remained hidden until she died in 1879.

ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For January and in honor of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 25-31, here is a look at the historic O'Donoghue School in Charlotte.



COURTESY PHOTO

O'Donoghue Hall circa 1908 is depicted in this post card published by International Post Card Company.

1830: At least two sources identify a small Catholic school operating in Charlotte around this time.

Located in the house of Father John Maginnis were a boys' school and a Catholic chapel. As with some apostolates during this time in North Carolina, the school was short-lived and there are no further details regarding its existence.

Sept. 6, 1887: Copious and verifiable records document the first Catholic school in Charlotte officially opening near St. Peter Church under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy.

The school, the Academy of the Immaculate Conception, began at the request of Father Mark Gross, pastor of St. Peter Church. By 1889, the institution was split into St. Mary's Seminary, a boarding school for girls, and a parochial day school.

Mercy Sister Catherine Price, sister of "Tar Heel Apostle" Thomas Price, was the first directress of the boarding school. The two schools had a combined student population of approximately 100 by the early 1890s.

1896: At this time, the Official Catholic Directory no longer lists the boarding school for girls; only the parochial school remains in operation.

1905: O'Donoghue Hall is constructed on the corner of Stonewall and Tryon streets through the generosity of Dr. Denis O'Donoghue. Designed by Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, a renowned architect and Belmont Abbey monk, this edifice becomes the new parochial school as well as St. Peter Church's parish hall.

The old school building, which opened in 1887, is converted into a convent for the Sisters of Mercy.

Unfortunately in 1921, a fire destroys the original school building.

Feb. 16, 1926: Benedictine Father Ambrose Gallagher, pastor of St. Peter Church, purchases property in Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood for \$21,000. The property is used as a new site for the parochial school. Enough property is obtained adjacent to the new school to provide

room for a future convent and parish.

1930: A school building is constructed on the aforementioned site purchased by Father Gallagher. Benedictine Father McInerney designs the school building and it was named O'Donoghue School.

Sept. 1, 1939: Raleigh Bishop Eugene McGuinness consecrates St. Patrick Church on adjacent land to O'Donoghue School. The church is publicly dedicated Sept. 4 with a solemn pontifical high Mass celebrated by Abbot-Bishop Vincent Taylor of Belmont Abbey.

1943: U.S. soldiers stationed in Charlotte during WWII use the old O'Donoghue Hall on the corner of Stonewall and Tryon streets as sleeping quarters.

June 1944: St. Peter Church sells O'Donoghue Hall to the Elks Club for \$50,000.

1946: After steadily adding high school grades, O'Donoghue School graduates its first high school class.

1955: The high school classes move to the new Charlotte Catholic High School on Park Road.

Oct. 29, 1959: The roof above the newly constructed O'Donoghue School auditorium collapses. No injuries result as the accident occurs at night.

1961: While male students remain at Charlotte Catholic High School on Park Road, female students move to the newly-established Our Lady of Mercy High School on the second floor of O'Donoghue School. Sisters of Mercy conduct classes there.

Enrollment of both high schools was around 150 students. The two schools merge again in 1968 and remain at the Park Road location until 1995, when Charlotte Catholic moves to an expanded location in south Charlotte.

1965: O'Donoghue School is renamed St. Patrick School. Sisters of Mercy staff the school continuously from 1887 until the 1990s.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

A Ram at St. Leo



COURTESY PHOTO

parent Thomas, a senior wide receiver on the Winston-Salem State University Rams football team, calls on a student while visiting the kindergarten class at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Nov. 12, 2008.

During his visit, Thomas read a book, "Kick, Pass and Run," to the class of 20 kindergarten students; spoke about the importance of quality education, rest and exercise; and answered questions about football, Winston-Salem State University and college life in general.

Thomas, who also works at the Children's Museum in downtown Winston-Salem, said he makes it a priority to help out area children.

Exploring through books



COURTESY PHOTO

Third- and fourth-grade students are pictured with copies of the book, "Akimbo and the Elephants," at St. Patrick School in Charlotte Dec. 10, 2008. The 22 students were participants in a book club organized by parent Jacki Altmeyer. After reading the book, the students had a discussion on it and played animal tracking games relating to the story.

Eleven fourth- and fifth-graders met in the school library Dec. 11 to review the book, "Kensuke's Kingdom." After discussing the book, students painted shells in the style of one of the book's characters, sampled tropical foods from the book and took part in a nautical flag scavenger hunt.

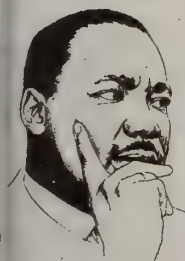
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A prayer service, lunch and presentations by Otis Hairston and Delano Rackard will take place in the Parish Life Center of St. Mary Catholic Church during the mid-day.

Questions? Call (704) 641-3108

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Convergence against injustice

Three January observances intertwined with Gospel message

Each January, three observances converge that reinforce each other and summon the Christian world to work together against injustice.

Jan. 15 is the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and on or around that day we observe a national holiday in his honor.

A week later, on Jan. 22, we recall the tragic decision made that day in 1973 by the Supreme Court in *Roe vs. Wade*, unleashing a policy of abortion on demand. On or around Jan. 22, large rallies and marches for life are held from coast to coast.

And from Jan. 18 to 25 each year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed.

These three great movements are deeply intertwined.

Jesus Christ prayed that his followers would be one, as he and the Father are one. Authentic Christian unity does not mean pretending there are no serious doctrinal disagreements between denominations.

It does mean working to come to a deeper understanding of what those differences are and are not, as well as recognizing and building on the real unity that does exist in our common affirmation of Christ and his Lordship in our lives and in the world.

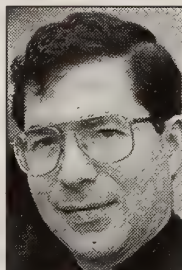
That affirmation of Christ requires we work to fight injustice. In his encyclical letter on Christian unity, issued in 1995, Pope John Paul II wrote:

"Many Christians from all communities, by reason of their faith, are jointly involved in bold projects aimed at changing the world by inculcating respect for the rights and needs of everyone, especially the poor, the lowly, and the defenseless ... Christians who once acted independently are now engaged together in the service of this cause, so that God's mercy may triumph."

Both the civil rights movement and the pro-life movement are evidence

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



of this common engagement. Both movements seek to secure equal rights for marginalized human beings, despite their appearances, and to apply to law and culture the promises of the Gospel.

Both movements have found their "meeting place" and their "launching pad" in the churches, manifesting this declaration of Rev. King:

"I'm always happy to see a relevant ministry. It's alright to talk about 'long white robes over yonder,' in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here.

"It's alright to talk about 'streets flowing with milk and honey,' but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day.

"It's alright to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do."

Defending the equal dignity of every human being after birth strengthens our witness to the rights of those in danger before birth, and vice-versa. The witness, in fact, is ultimately one: the witness to the one Christ, who restores dignity to every human life.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

The bleak midwinter of post-holiday January

Month is soulful time of mystery, reflection

"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan ..."

Christina Rossetti opens her ode to the Christ Child with words that seem written for the cold, hard winter we are having in Anchorage, Alaska, where temperatures hover around zero and wind chills reach 30 below.

And although it may be warmer in other spots (and colder in Fairbanks, with nights near 50 below), this January midwinter, with its economic woes and war in Gaza, seems, in the words of another author, "the winter of our discontent."

The holiday season — bright, cheerful, even garish and gluttonous — gives way to the austerity of January, the bleakness of unrelenting winter.

"Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone," writes Rossetti, who might have been looking out my winter window, where ice fog ascends each morning to leave trees thick with white hoarfrost.

It's an odd time, this January interlude. We celebrate Epiphany and Jesus' baptism, but we do so while taking the tree down and putting away the bright lights.

Nationally, we create a festival out of a football game, and we make resolutions we probably won't keep. As a church, we wait in "ordinary" time for Lent.

No wonder then, in the darkness of early January, as light trickles back to the Northern Hemisphere minute by precious minute, thoughts turn to questions of life and death.

The holidays bring death into sharper relief: the young female writer in my online writers' group succumbs with grace and faith to an illness that steals her from her young family. An older friend, a longtime newspaper man, faces his final Christmas.

Amacabre subject? Not to a Christian. It seems the bleak and frozen midwinter is a good time to contemplate it, a cocoon time to meditate on the seasons of life, the cycles of birth and death.

My meditations are partially induced by what I'm hunkering down with these January evenings, a Christmas gift, "This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War," a brilliant work

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



by Drew Gilpin Faust.

Did you know that the 620,000 soldiers who died between 1861 and 1865 is nearly equal to the American dead in many other wars combined?

How did Americans absorb this orgy of death, this bloodbath on their own soil? What did it do to our ideas of how our loved ones should die, their unheard last words, the consolation they and the mourners would not experience at the deathbed?

How did it feel to see violent death photographed graphically for the first time on such a large scale?

It's a fascinating book, and it seems appropriate to read it in the "dead of winter" — what an apt phrase for this moment.

Christmas is a time of birth, springtime the time of resurrection.

But January, the bleak midwinter, January is time spent in the empty tomb. Not in a lonely or terrifying way but peacefully.

Someone has just been here, in the tomb, but he's elusive right now, even though he's very near.

January is a soulful time, a time of mystery and reflection, a slow down time.

It's a time to curl up with cocoa and read, to dream and pray and live in mystery. It's quiet time to draw close to him who holds the answer to the questions of life and, inevitably, death.

Rossetti's poem asks the famous question, "What shall I give him?" and answers in the quiet of midwinter, "Give me your heart."

Inspiration for hard times

When times look dismal, how do we avoid becoming overwhelmed? May I suggest seeking out sage quotes and taking them to heart?

Our best defense against fear is having good perception. When our world seems to be closing in on us, we tend to see only the negative.

Quotes broaden our perception, giving us hope, something to look forward to when we think we are sunk. Sage quotes contain the power of energizing you and making you feel "I can do it!" "I never thought of it that

way" or "Let's try doing it differently!"

Short, inspirational quotes can be tucked in our mind and accompany us throughout the day, filling us with uplifting, positive thoughts.

Charles Kettering, inventor of the automobile starter, observes, "Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." He reminds us to keep our minds open by continuing to read, consulting with knowledgeable persons and looking for new ways of energizing the mind.

Inventor Thomas Edison said,

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"We've stumbled along for a while, trying to run a new civilization in old ways, but we've got to start to make this world over."

Edison's words encourage us to evaluate how we've done things, asking ourselves, "Shouldn't we be reassessing

our old way of doing things in order to create new beginnings in our life. Could it be our tough times are blessing in disguise, calling for retooling, restructuring and renewal?"

Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote in the midst of the Great Depression, "The unhappy times call for ... plans ... to build from the bottom up and not from the top down, that put our faith once more in the forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid." We are reminded to wait for help from the top, but to pick ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

Sage quotes containing wisdom are everywhere, waiting for us to find their inspiration.

We've been given a change to believe in

Christians have responsibility to turn the world upside down

These first weeks of this new year are a strange time, an unusual time due to an extreme anticipation of that which we already possess.

It is the juxtaposition between the great event that truly made a difference — the Incarnation — and the event anticipated to make a difference, the inauguration of a new president of the United States.

The nation is awaiting "change you can believe in," anticipating as a change agent a president who must all but walk in water to meet expectations.

We have already been given a change to believe in, however.

It is ironic, as the spiritual significance of Christmas was all but diluted by the anxious advent for change in government.

A few years ago the pastor of our parish directed that the Christmas tree, rather than being placed in a stand in the sanctuary, be hung upside down from the rafter. The surprise — if not shock — of the parishioners entering church at Christmas became the theme of his homily.

"Father, why did you do that? It's upside down. It's out of place," he was told.

His response in the homily: The birth of Christ turned the world upside down, and the celebration of that fact should provoke an even greater reaction than a tree turned upside down.

Christians are agents of change with no need of civil or secular permission to fulfill that responsibility. To right the economy, to build a sense of community in a fractured nation can only be done by reversing the causes: greed, selfishness and violence.

That cannot be done by the president of the United States; it is something people must do themselves.

Christ is the one who brought change we can believe in. Now what is needed is change we can act upon with the courage to do what the change demands.

This courage to bring about the change we believe in requires being a sign of opposition to values of the world. The church cannot adapt the faith to make it palatable to modern tastes and expectations, what a Vatican official called an "accommodationist" approach.

The church's moral teachings are not arbitrary, permitting or forbidding things regardless of their relationship to human goodness, said Father Augustine DiNoia, undersecretary of the Congregation for

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



the Doctrine of the Faith.

This is not blind obedience, about obeying rules, but acceptance of the help the church offers to allow us to do a better job of carrying out our responsibilities, he said.

If we are to bring about change in our culture, Christians must overcome the barriers to misunderstanding about the faith.

Change will come from people who see elimination of selfishness in relation to God's plan for us.

Our resolve to meet the needs of the poor, homeless and hungry will be tested.

In pursuit of promised change on a national political level, new policies will be proposed. Some will be in concert with our beliefs, others will be in opposition.

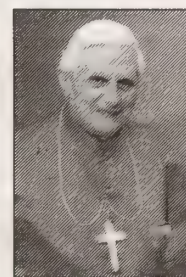
While we can't yield on principles, we can make an effort to show we can be strong in our views as well as be proponents of positives, not negatives.

Christ turned the world upside down. We cannot spare the change.

True worship entails honoring God concretely in daily life, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — True worship entails honoring God, not in the abstract, but concretely in one's daily life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Christians are called to offer themselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and to glorify God in their "full daily existence," he said Jan. 7 at the first weekly general audience of 2009.

The pope extended his New Year's greetings to about 4,000 pilgrims gathered inside the Paul VI hall. He called on the faithful to renew their dedication to "opening one's heart and mind to Christ."

May the faithful continue to seek to live as true friends of Christ, he said.

"His companionship will mean that, even with this year's inevitable difficulties, the year can be a journey full of joy and peace," he said.

"In fact, only if we stay united with Jesus will it be a good and happy new year," he added.

In his catechesis, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the apostle's definition of true worship.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the beginning of this new year, I offer all of you my cordial good wishes.

In the coming months, may our minds and hearts be opened ever more fully to Christ, following the example of St. Paul, whose life and doctrine we have been considering during this Pauline year.

Today we turn to the meaning of "true worship" as highlighted in Paul's Letter to the Romans. In uniting us to himself, Christ, a temple "not made with human hands," has made us a "living sacrifice."

Paul thus exhorts us to offer our own "bodies" — meaning our entire selves — as a "spiritual worship": not in the abstract, but in our concrete daily life.

At the same time, this true worship does not come about merely through human effort. Rather, through baptism, we have become "one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28), who took upon himself our human nature and has thus "assumed" us into himself.

Only he has the power, by joining us to his body, to unite all people.

Thus, the goal of the church's missionary activity is to call everyone into this "cosmic liturgy," in which the world becomes the glory of God: "a pleasing sacrifice, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

How do you own your property?

Review is important for property distribution at end of life

Many people begin a new year with review of their goals, objectives and solutions, and often this includes a review of their overall estate plan. End-of-life planning for the Christian steward includes developing a well thought-out plan for the distribution of property.

People own property in various ways: by themselves, with another person or as part of a revocable living trust.

How you own your property is important in your planning to include bequests and other planned charitable gifts to the Catholic Church through your parish, a Catholic school, a Catholic agency, the diocesan foundation or the diocese of Charlotte.

Your plan will need to coordinate your asset beneficiary designations — and how you own your property with your will and/or revocable living trust documents — to ensure your property passes to your intended family, church and any other charity beneficiaries.

If your trust agreement provides for bequests or charitable gifts, but your property is not in the trust name, there may be no gifts to the church, depending on how you actually own the property.

If, for example, you own marketable securities with another person as joint tenants with right of survivorship, the property will pass to the surviving owner and not to the church through your trust.

Joint tenancy with right of survivorship

Many people own property with another person as joint tenants with right of survivorship. If the joint tenants are husband and wife, this form of ownership is referred to as "tenants by the entirety."

The survivorship feature is key, since at the death of the first joint tenant the property passes directly to the survivor.

For example, if a husband and wife own their home as tenants by the entirety, the home will pass directly to the wife if her husband dies. It does not pass through the husband's will or trust. The wife would then own the property in her individual name.

Many people believe that because property will automatically pass to the surviving joint tenant, there is no need for a will. However, to revisit the above example, the property that has now become the wife's alone will pass by intestacy at her death unless she has a will.

This means the state statute will determine who gets the wife's property.

If the couple should pass away together, for example in an accident, there would be no survivor to make a will to avoid intestacy.

Having wills in place — regardless of how property is owned — can avoid an unhappy situation.

Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST



Revocable living trust

Another issue involves the common use of a revocable living trust in modern estate plans.

A trust serves many purposes: it avoids probate court procedures, avoids or reduces estate taxes, ensures privacy and provides for the successor trustee to manage the trust assets when you die or become incapacitated.

It is important to retitle your assets in the name of the trust when you establish it in order to take advantage of all the benefits offered by a revocable living trust.

As you review property ownership within your overall estate plan, please give prayerful consideration to making a gift to the Catholic Church through bequests to your parish, a Catholic school, a Catholic agency, the diocesan foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte.

Judy Smith is planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

There and back again

Migrant farmworkers come and go daily to Arizona fields

BY BERN ZOVISTOSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

YUMA, Ariz. — In the wee hours of the morning, in the chilly darkness, they head for work.

Starting as early as 1 or 2 a.m., they walk or catch rides to the border and cross — often a time-consuming ordeal — and then climb into buses that carry them to the produce fields.

There, they labor all day, returning home after dark.

The next day, they do it all over again. And again the next day.

The work is challenging for the Mexican men and women who make their living in the fields of southwestern Arizona, in and around Yuma.

It's so difficult, in fact, that many young people today pass up the opportunity.

To see the plight of the farmworkers firsthand, Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas journeyed to the fields in Yuma County and San Luis Rio Colorado, in the Mexican state of Sonora, for the second time in a year.

He described the Dec. 4-6 tour as "a unique educational and spiritual experience."

"Clearly," Bishop Kicanas said,

"Clearly our church needs to find even more ways to reach out pastorally to those who labor in these fields ... to advocate for them."

— Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas

"our church needs to find even more ways to reach out pastorally to those who labor in these fields, to strengthen their family life, to advocate for them."

He was joined for the tour by Auxiliary Bishop John R. Manz of



CNS PHOTO BY BERN ZOVISTOSKI, THE NEW VISION

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., talks with migrant farmworkers in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico Dec. 4. The bishop celebrated a special Mass for the farmworkers.

Chicago, Bishop Jose Isidro Guerrero Macias of Mexicali, Mexico, and a host of other church officials.

Bishop Kicanas said the group's goal is to "link the church and the farmworkers into a coalition" to promote justice.

"The farmworkers we met have little," he said, "but their faith in Christ is strong."

"The goal was to introduce our guests to the people who labor in the produce industry on both sides of the border," Bishop Kicanas said.

"We wanted them to learn about the many challenges and concerns related to migrant labor, working conditions, border security and the economy of the produce industry," he said.

An estimated 15,000 to 18,000 workers cross the border at San Luis every day, said grower Rick Rademacher.

"They want to work here and go home at night," he said. "All they want is a job. Most are proud Mexican citizens."

Planting, thinning and harvesting the produce "requires expert human hands and eyes," said Rademacher.

In return for their skills, the documented workers are paid \$8.37 an hour. Other workers are paid little more than \$1 an hour for their toil.

During the winter months, the region produces most of the lettuce supplied to markets throughout the United States.

Cauliflower, green onions and dates are among the other crops produced on 175,000 acres of deep fertile soil deposited by the Colorado River over the centuries.

Growing conditions are ideal, with sunshine 94.6 percent of the time and a 350-day growing season, said Kurt Nolte, a University of Arizona agriculture employee. A third of Arizona's agricultural production, amounting to \$3.2 billion annually, comes from the region.

Nolte, some growers and others gave the visitors presentations before the entourage went into the fields to talk with the laborers in Dome Valley east of Yuma.

Grower Gary Pasquinelli, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Yuma, said farming is "a labor-intensive industry" and maintaining a reliable workforce is problematic at best.

The domestic labor pool is shrinking and aging, and domestic employees are becoming less and less dependable, he said, so the potential answer for the future is workers from Mexico.

Janine Duron, executive director of the Independent Agricultural Workers Center, guided a visit to San Luis Rio Colorado, in Mexico, including stop at the homes of some migrant worker where children played in the packed-dirt yards and shared an outhouse.

The center's goal is "to help farmworkers and employers prosper in their finances and families," she said.

Duron said substance abuse, mainly alcohol, runs high in the workforce.

"Many use substances to help them get up to work another day, and others get to sleep at night," she said.

Duron noted that work and travel time can easily consume 14 to 18 hours a day.

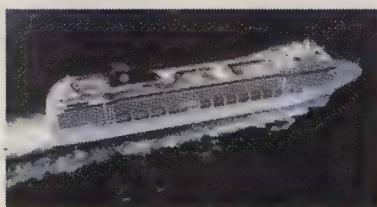
With a diminishing number of able and willing domestic farmworkers, Duron said, growers are increasingly attracted to the federal government's H2A foreign guest-worker program and the center is working with small employers and guest-worker candidates to help facilitate the H2A process.

The group's tour wrapped up Dec. 6 at an onion plant in San Luis Rio Colorado, where about 700 men, women and children gathered for a Mass in which all three bishops participated.

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Making it work

*Churches, agencies
help unemployed
parishioners find jobs*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — As unemployment rates across the country continue to rise, churches and agencies in the Diocese of Charlotte and beyond are reaching out to parishioners in search of work.

The national unemployment rate hit a 15-year high when it climbed to 6.7 percent in December 2008.

On a local level, unemployment rose in all 100 North Carolina counties in November with the average unemployment rate at 7.9 percent, according to data released by the N.C.

See JOBS, page 8

Fighting FOCA

*Nationwide campaign
to 'flood' lawmakers
with postcards*

*Local participation
encouraged*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life program director is encouraging Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte to take part in a nationwide postcard campaign to lawmakers regarding possible attempts by the new

See FOCA, page 6

With blind ambition



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Patrick Vellia, a deafblind altar server, assists Deacon James Atkinson during Mass at Holy Spirit Church in Denver Jan. 11.

*Deafblind man
overcomes disabilities
to serve God*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

DENVER — To an onlooker in a pew at Holy Spirit Church in Denver, Patrick Vellia looks like a typical altar server.

Holding the cross high, he leads the opening procession down the center aisle of the church with determination and poise.

That seemingly simple task is actually quite an accomplishment because unlike a typical altar server, Patrick is deaf and blind.

Originally from New York, Patrick, 21, was born blind and lost his hearing by the time he was 3.

His parents taught him a limited vocabulary before his hearing loss and, when he was 18 months old, he was enrolled in an early intervention program

See SERVER, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK MOROCK

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, join youths from the Diocese of Charlotte during the 2008 March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, 2008.

Marching for life

*Rallies marking abortion anniversary set
for days around inauguration*

**Bishop Jugis to participate
in pro-life events**

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Thousands of pro-life advocates are expected to rally in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade

decision legalizing abortion, just days after President-elect Barack Obama is inaugurated.

Abortion opponents also will hold multiple events in the nation's capital and throughout the United States the days before and the day of the official 2009 March for Life, as

See MARCH, page 6

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Sharing mercy

*Parishioners make covenant
as Mercy Associates*

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Culture Watch

*New book on Father Merton;
nun inspires film director*

| PAGES 10-11

Bridges, not walls

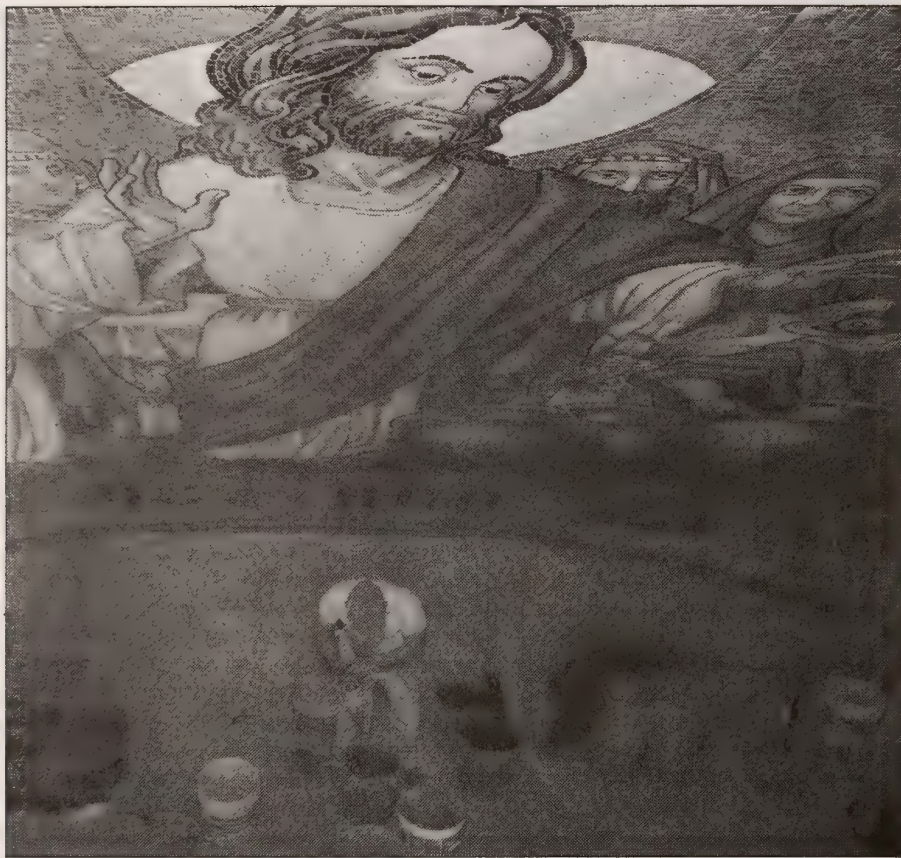
*Obama, Mexican president
urged to care for migrants*

| PAGE 13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

MAKING MASTERPIECES



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

A worker prepares materials for a mosaic in a dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in 2008. The mosaic is one of several designed by the Rambusch family at the basilica. The fourth-generation family company just celebrated its 110th anniversary.

Fourth generation of Catholic family designs, restores churches around country

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Rambusch family knows just about everything there is to know about Catholic churches, from installing mosaic artwork and modern lighting systems to designing tabernacles, crosses, altars, pews and stained-glass windows.

The Rambusch Company, a fourth-generation family business that just celebrated its 110th anniversary, has had many projects over the years in synagogues, state capitols, government buildings and museums across the country.

But the church work has a way of standing out.

Maybe that's because the first clients for Frode Rambusch, an immigrant from Denmark who started the company in 1898, were Catholic churches in Brooklyn, N.Y. Churches have remained steady clients over the generations either as repeat customers needing restoration work or new church buildings and additions.

At the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Rambusch is a familiar name.

In 1931, the company designed and installed the basilica's first chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. Since then, they have designed several

other chapels in the basilica, many of the stained-glass windows and much of the lighting.

Most recently, the firm designed and oversaw the basilica's mosaic ceiling domes.

Other repeat clients include the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, W.Va., where the Rambusch company designed ironwork in 1927 and just last year designed a new lighting system.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York the firm designed a chapel in 1908 and recently restored the cathedral's windows and lighting fixtures.

Viggo F.E. Rambusch, son of the company's founder, worked on more than 1,000 Catholic churches in his 62 years in the business before he died in 1997. In 1988, he was recognized as the "dean of American church architects" by The Catholic University of America in Washington.

His son, Viggo B.A. Rambusch, the past president of the company who continues to work part time as the firm's senior project manager, said the church work has been "the most satisfying" part of the business, particularly renovating old churches, which he likened to a major recycling effort.

"We're blessed to be allowed to do this," he said.

In her last school stop, first lady Laura Bush visits Catholic school

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS) — First lady Laura Bush, who has visited countless schools in the United States and foreign countries, made her last school visit Jan. 13 to Little Flower School, a Catholic school in the Washington suburb of Bethesda.

"Today is my very last school visit while my husband is president," she told the students, faculty and staff. "I wanted to end my school visit with a terrific school like Little Flower."

Bush praised the school for receiving the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Award last fall in recognition of its academic achievement.

"That's really a wonderful accomplishment," she said. "Congratulations on being such smart kids."

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl introduced Bush and noted the first lady was "no stranger to education and no stranger to our schools." A year ago, Bush visited Holy Redeemer School

in Washington. Both visits were to commemorate Catholic Schools Week, an annual observance which this year will be celebrated Jan. 25-31 with the theme: "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service."

Bush told the school that as a former librarian and a teacher she has always been interested in education. She noted that many of the first schools in the United States were Catholic schools. She urged members of the school community to take time during Catholic Schools Week to talk to government leaders about the importance of Catholic education.

A group of students then presented the first lady with a bouquet of roses.

Bush told the students she had cleaned out her office and found many children's books which she was donating to their library.

"This is a wonderful day for Little Flower," said Sister Rosemaron Rynn, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the school's principal.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Bilingual instruction is available for Spanish speakers. Classes are free but registration is required. Call for the schedule as classes will not be held on certain dates. For more information, call Nettie Watkins at the Allegro Foundation (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Over the past few years, awareness and devotion to St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer and incurable diseases, has grown at the parish. Beginning in February, a healing prayer service will be offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., presents a free concert by Al Barbarino Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. He will also sing at all of the weekend Masses. Barbarino is a lay Franciscan of the St. Padre Pio Shelter in New York and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He sings in parishes around the world to raise awareness of the crisis of poverty and to promote a consciousness of God in our daily lives. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap*

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a special Mass for the sanctity of life at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Don Franz at (828) 697-8194.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat "Passage to Wholeness: A Retreat for Adults 40+", will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). This is a retreat for anyone seeking a more meaningful way to integrate their spirituality as they walk through the second half of life. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door. For more information or to register, call Father Vince at the church office (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
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JANUARY 16, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 11

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

U.S. church-state model faces new challenges, speakers say

ROME (CNS) — The traditional U.S. model of church-state relations has been praised by Pope Benedict XVI as a form of "healthy secularism," but it risks being eroded by those who want to limit religion's influence in public life, speakers at a Rome conference said.

The conference Jan. 13 marked the 25th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See, and was the last of five encounters sponsored by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican on the theme of religious liberty.

The U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, pointed out there are competing models of religious freedom in the U.S. and the future of church-state relations is a subject of intense debate.

Speakers agreed there are persistent efforts to restrict religion to the private sphere — something not intended by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

Philip Hamburger, a professor

at Columbia Law School in New York, said the original U.S. idea of "disestablishment," which prevented the government from establishing an official state church, has been increasingly replaced by the notion of strict separation between church and state.

Richard Garnett, a professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, said there are three competing concepts of religious freedom in the U.S. today — freedom from religion, freedom of religion and freedom for religion. He said the freedom-for-religion model was closest to the ideas of the U.S. Founding Fathers.

The Constitution, he said, was clearly designed for a religious people, and its authors did not "want to push religion to the margins in the hope that it will wither." Rather, they sought to distinguish between the authorities and structures of religion and those of government, mainly as a safeguard against state interference in religious life.

Gaza Strip resembles a concentration camp, says top Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gaza Strip increasingly is looking like "a big concentration camp" while egoism, hatred, poverty and injustice are fueling the continual slaughter in the Holy Land, said a top Vatican official.

"We are seeing a continual massacre in the Holy Land where the overwhelming majority has nothing to do with the conflict, but it is paying for the hatred of a few with their lives," said Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

"Let's look at the conditions in Gaza: It's looking more and more like a big concentration camp," he said in an interview Jan. 7.

Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, Mordechai Lewy, criticized the cardinal's comments saying they were "way out of line."

However, the remarks have not negatively affected Vatican-Israeli relations which are still "good as before," said the ambassador Jan. 8.

That the cardinal would make the comparison "shows he has never visited a concentration camp," he added.

Meanwhile, Israel's foreign ministry spokesman, Yigal Palmor, said Cardinal

Martino's comments "seem to have come directly from Hamas propaganda" and did nothing "to help bring people closer to the truth and peace."

By saying the Gaza Strip resembled a concentration camp, the cardinal was ignoring "the unspeakable crimes" committed by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, he said Jan. 7.

Palmor said Hamas "has derailed the peace process and has turned the Gaza Strip into a giant human shield."

Cardinal Martino defended his description of the Gaza Strip, saying those who criticized his remarks "can say what they want. The situation in Gaza is horrible."

"I say, look at the conditions of the people who live there. Surrounded by a wall that is difficult to cross — in conditions (that are) contrary to human dignity. What has been happening recently there is horrifying," he said.

He said there was nothing in his comments "that may be interpreted as anti-Israeli" and he condemned Hamas' use of violence against Israel.

Pope Benedict urged both sides Jan. 8 to resume negotiations and agree to "the rejection of hatred, acts of provocation and the use of arms."

series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This is an event open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. For more information, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, beginning Feb. 9 and ending May 25, 7-9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Topics will include: a biography of Pope Benedict and fundamentals of Christianity; the church (two sessions); liturgy; Mary; interpretation of Scripture; truth, conscience and freedom; and the church and politics. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Free Spanish classes, beginner and advanced, will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The classes will run for eight weeks. All materials will be furnished. For more information or to register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail hkwan@lexcominc.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host HOSEA (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again) for those who have been away from the faith and are interested in getting reacquainted with the Catholic Church. The six weekly sessions begin Feb. 11 from 7:15-9 p.m. Come and have your questions answered. For more information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097 or call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. in the

Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is hosting a covered dish luncheon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Jan. 28 (snow date Feb. 4) from 12 to 2 p.m. A program will be presented by a speaker from the Pregnancy Care Center. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. For more information, contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., is hosting an open house Feb. 3 from 7 to 8 p.m. There will be a brief presentation, tour of the church, refreshments and an opportunity to speak with clergy. For more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — An information session for men considering becoming permanent deacons will be held at the Catholic Conference Center Jan. 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (note the date has been changed from Jan. 10) Potential candidates must attend an information session to be considered for the permanent diaconate. To register, contact Deacon Scott Gilfillan at deacon.scott@att.net or Deacon George Szalony at gszalony@msn.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Church refuge



CNS PHOTO BY JUAN CARLOS ULATE, REUTERS

Ismael Fernandez, 6, stands inside a church that is being used as a refuge for earthquake survivors in Fraijanes de Alajuela, Costa Rica, Jan. 12. The search for victims continues in Costa Rica in the aftermath of a 6.1-magnitude earthquake Jan. 8, which is believed responsible for more than 20 deaths.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 21-23
March for Life
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 25 (10:30 a.m.)
Vietnamese New Year Mass
St. Joseph Church, Charlotte

Jan. 27 (10 a.m.)
Catholic Schools Week Mass
Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro

Jan. 29 (11 a.m.)
Groundbreaking for Curlin Commons
Mooresville

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Sharing the mercy



COURTESY PHOTO

New Mercy Associates are pictured with Elaine Sipe (left), local Mercy Association coordinator, and Mercy Sister Barbara Wheeley (second from left) after a covenant ceremony at the Sisters of Mercy Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont Dec. 7. Associates pictured are (from left) Jayne Mannino, Ruth Turgeon, Sherry Anulies, Frances Dewalt, Lincoln Sigwald, Juanzia Dewalt and Jackie Lang.

Parishioners make covenants as Mercy Associates

BELMONT — Seven people recently became Mercy Associates with the Sisters of Mercy.

The six women and one man participated in a covenant ceremony in Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont Dec. 7.

During the ceremony, each new Mercy Associate read and signed a covenant with the Sisters of Mercy and received a Mercy Association pin.

Jayne Mannino, Ruth Turgeon, Sherry Anulies, Frances Dewalt, Lincoln Sigwald, Juanzia Dewalt and Jackie Lang now join the more than 100 Mercy Associates currently serving in western North Carolina.

While maintaining independent lifestyles, Mercy Associates make formal covenants to extend the Sisters of Mercy mission by participating in service to the poor, sick and uneducated.

Mercy Associates also share opportunities for friendship, prayer, hospitality and celebration with the Sisters of Mercy.

"As Associates, we attend meetings, retreats and appropriate social gatherings" with the Sisters of Mercy, said Jayne Mannino, a parishioner of Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

"We draw support from and lend support to the Sisters of Mercy," she said.

Mannino said some Mercy Associates are employed by the Sisters of Mercy in affiliated organizations, some perform volunteer work with the Sisters and others bring the Mercy mission to their families and work places.

The Sisters of Mercy offer other opportunities for lay men and women to serve through the Mercy Volunteer Corps and Companions in Mercy.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Mercy Associates, visit www.mercync.org/mercy_associates.htm.

Scouting service



COURTESY PHOTO

Will Allen and Christopher Wilson, members of Cub Scout Pack 16 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, volunteer for the Salvation Army in High Point Dec. 13, 2008. The work was part of the Scouts' community service efforts, which included serving Thanksgiving dinner to residents of a senior care center, raking leaves for elderly citizens and Christmas caroling at retirement facilities. The Scouts also team up with Boy Scouts to provide donuts after weekend Masses once a month.

For more information on Pack 16, visit www.ihmpack16.org.

Spiritual Exercises

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February 20-22, 2009

Hickory, NC

For Men and Young Men

June 12-14, 2009

Hickory, NC

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For more information and to register for these Exercises please contact Nancy or Albert Calvin at northcarolina@spiritualexercises.net or at (443) 928-0235.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a religious news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

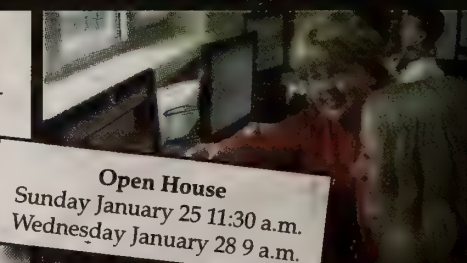
If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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FROM THE COVER

"Because of his disabilities, he is a very compassionate person."

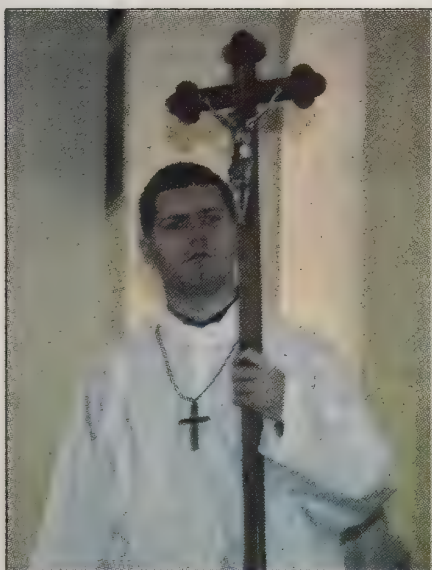
Deafblind man overcomes disabilities to serve God

SERVER, from page 1



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Patricia Vellia looks on as her son Patrick goes over the readings for Mass using a Braille version of the Roman Missal. Patrick receives the Braille missal from the Xavier Society for the Blind, the National Catholic Press and Lending Library for the visually impaired.



PHOTOS BY KATIE MOORE

Above left: Patrick Vellia uses hand gestures to sign along with the congregation during the breaking of the bread at Mass in Holy Spirit Church in Denver Jan. 11. Twenty-one-year-old Patrick, who was born blind and lost his hearing by the time he was three, has been an altar server since sixth grade.

Above right: Patrick Vellia retrieves the crucifix and heads to the back of Holy Spirit Church Jan. 11 as he prepares to lead the procession during the presentation of the gifts.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Patrick and Patricia Vellia communicate using finger spelling. Because Patrick is deaf and blind, he must use his hands to feel the letters that his mother is spelling.

where he learned pre-Braille skills.

Now he utilizes finger spelling to communicate — a method by which Patrick uses his hands to feel the letters that are being signed to him.

The youngest of five children, Patrick began kindergarten at the Catholic school that his older sisters and brother attended, but, due to the separation of church and state, disability services could not be provided at the parochial school.

His mother, Patricia, remembers that time as a particularly tough period for their family.

"The biggest help of all was Christ in the Blessed Sacrament," she said, recalling one instance in particular, when she sat in adoration and cried for more than an hour.

"I couldn't pray, I couldn't ask God what I needed. But he knew what I needed and he gave it to me," she said.

The next day she remembered the name of a man who worked for the New York Commission for the Blind. He had visited the Vellias shortly after Patrick was born and told them to contact him if they ever needed help.

He arranged for Patrick to receive disability services at the public school and made plans for him to attend the Helen Keller National Center summer camp.

"I think his older siblings motivated him," said his mother, because they never treated him like he was different.

In high school, Patrick took advanced placement classes so that he could earn an advanced diploma like his older siblings. His mother said she was nervous on the day of his graduation when the ceremony was moved inside due to rain.

"He didn't practice with those stairs," she said.

When Patrick walked across the stage, everyone in the auditorium was on their feet.

"I graduated with the loudest standing ovation, but didn't even notice," he said with a laugh.

Guided by faith

"Because of his disabilities he is a very compassionate person," said Patricia.

At Holy Spirit Church, the parish has embraced Patrick in his role as altar server. He seems perfectly comfortable in the role, although part of that could be attributed to his upbringing.

"I worked in the rectory for 11 years in New York," said his mother. "He was always around the church."

Patrick trained as an altar server when he was in sixth grade.

He likes serving because "it doesn't put me to sleep like sitting in the pews," he joked.

Patrick uses a Braille missal from the Xavier Society for the Blind, which serves as the National Catholic Press and

Lending Library for the visually impaired. It helps him follow along during Mass, even though he said it can be hard to read the Braille while standing up.

He does get frustrated sometimes. "What drives me crazy is that the choir won't stay with the book," he joked.

Father Carmen Malacari, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, told Patrick about the Xavier Society for the Blind and their free service of providing Catholic reading materials in Braille.

Prior to that, when Patrick was serving as a lector at his parish in New York, he used to translate the readings to Braille and memorize them so he could recite them at Mass.

Looking to the future

Now, Patrick is in school at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, where he has three interpreters to translate his classes. One of the biggest challenges he faces these days is not being able to drive.

"I still have to rely on Mom and Dad to get to school unless I take the bus," he said.

And although he currently is very focused on finishing his education, his mother said that on more than one occasion he has expressed an interest in becoming a priest.

In 2006, Patrick met Father Cyril Axelrod, the world's only "deafblind" priest. Father Axelrod is the pastoral support development coordinator for DeafBlind UK, a national charity offering specialist services and human support to deafblind people and those who have progressive sight and hearing loss. Patrick had read Father Axelrod's autobiography and was inspired by his story, but he said meeting him in person was even more meaningful.

Patrick has always been very dedicated when it comes to his faith.

His mother recalled a time when Patrick went to Seattle for the summer on a scholarship for a computer science program. Within the first week he had found a Catholic church where he could attend Mass on Sundays.

"He told me, 'Don't worry,'" she said, "I have to go through the woods and cross over 49th street, but don't worry — I have assistance."

He also found a nun at the parish who was able to interpret the Mass for him.

"People are surprised that he does as well as he does," said his mother.

There are a lot of things about Patrick that may surprise people.

One that he is particularly proud of is that he currently holds a black belt in martial arts.

"He has really had to overcome a lot," said Patricia. "I just pray so much because (God) has really brought us through."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Upcoming rallies to mark abortion anniversary

MARCH, from page 1

well as the following days.

Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis will concelebrate a Mass celebrated by Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington before the march.

Bishop Jugis participated in the annual Charlotte March for Life Jan. 16, and joined Bishop Burbidge for the Raleigh March for Life Jan. 17.

In Washington, the main event will begin with a noon rally on the National Mall, followed by a march along Constitution Avenue that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court.

From there, participants are encouraged to meet with members of Congress to lobby on abortion-related issues.

"The first session of the 111th Congress will convene in January, with all newly elected members of the House and many newly elected members of the Senate," organizers of the march wrote on the official Web site, www.marchforlife.org.

"We shall be a large group of Americans to bring our prayers and our important simple pro-life message to this new administration and new Congress," they said.

With millions expected in Washington for inauguration events the week of Jan. 19 and the thousands of participants anticipated for the march and related activities, organizers said it will be a "crazy week" in the nation's capital.

The theme of this year's march is "Remember — The Life Principles Mean 'Equal Care' With No Exceptions," meaning the intentional killing of even one unborn human is never justified or necessary, the Web site said.

Organizers are also stressing that the United States must provide equal care for both a pregnant mother and her unborn child.

Vigil prayers

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will begin an all-night vigil with a 7 p.m. Mass Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and conclude with a 7:30 a.m. liturgy Jan. 22.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, will celebrate the evening Mass and Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., will be the principal celebrant for the morning Mass.

For the first time since the all-night vigil has been held, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will direct people who won't fit into the basilica for the events to similar Masses within walking distance, said Deirdre McQuade,

assistant director for policy and communications for the USCCB's Office of Pro-Life Activities.

"We estimate that 12,000 people were at the vigil last year," McQuade told Catholic News Service Jan. 5.

"If we have such a crowd this year, we may not be able to accommodate everyone in the basilica. So, we're making sure they have a place to worship close by," she said. "We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate."

Earlier on Jan. 21, the Sisters of Life will host an afternoon of prayerful remembrance and intercession at the Crypt Church of the basilica from 1-4 p.m. to allow men and women whose lives have been affected by abortion to pray and seek God's healing and forgiveness, McQuade said.

Other events

Several other events will take place in Washington and around the country to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 21 the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life will be held at Georgetown University in Washington; the conference is intended to educate college and high school students.

On the morning of the annual March for Life, Bishop Jugis will give the homily at an 11:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge in the basilica.

The Washington Archdiocese expects more than 20,000 Catholic teens and young adults from all over the United States to attend its youth rally at the Verizon Center, Washington's largest sports arena, from 7:30-11:30 a.m., with a 10 a.m. Mass celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

The Filipino Family Fund and Culture of Life Foundation will host the third annual "Champions for Family" awards reception Jan. 22 at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington.

Honorees include U.S. Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, R-Pa.; Dr. Rene Bullecer, who heads Human Life International in the Philippines; and Father Jerome Magat, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Arlington, Va., and founder of the Guadalupe Free Clinic, a free medical clinic for the poor.

On Jan. 23 the American Life League will hold a conference from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, followed by a 6 p.m. concert sponsored by Students for Life of America and featuring Barlow Girl and Laura Ingraham.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

COMING SOON

Look for coverage of the local and Washington-area pro-life events in upcoming editions of The Catholic News & Herald.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Eleven-year-old Stephen Maimone (left) attends the 2008 March for Life rally in Washington with other family members Jan. 22, 2008. The Maimone family, from Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, N.C., was among the thousands of people taking part in the annual demonstration.

Postcard campaign aims to fight abortion legislation

FOCA, from page 1

Congress to pass the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA).

The target weekend for the "Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign" is scheduled for Jan. 24-25.

"This legislation is extremely dangerous," said Maggie Nadol, director of Respect Life, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

FOCA was introduced in the 110th Congress April 19, 2007, declaring that it is the policy of the United States that every woman has the "fundamental right" to terminate a pregnancy.

If passed, the act would prohibit government at every level — federal, state and local — from "interfering" with a woman's right to choose, and from "discriminating" against the exercise of this right.

"The many gains that we have made in promoting and ensuring the sanctity

of human life may be swept away," said Nadol.

"As Catholics, we want our voices heard and this postcard campaign is one way that we can do it in a unified manner," she said.

Campaign packets are available from the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, the organization behind the campaign.

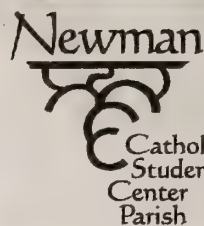
Packets contain a parish manual with explicit directions and suggestions on how to expedite the campaign on the parish level. The packets also contain flyers and postcards, which are available in English and Spanish.

"The idea is to really flood Washington with a large amount (of postcards) in a short amount of time," said Nadol.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information or to participate in the "Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign," call Maggie Nadol at (704) 370-3229 or e-mail MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org.

TO ALL GRADUATES OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL



Come and reconnect with fellow alumni, staff and students of the Newman Catholic Student Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

All graduates and their families who live in the Greensboro/Winston-Salem area are encouraged to come and socialize with fellow graduates on Sunday, February 8 — 3pm to 5pm. Our Lady of Grace Catholic School 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro

IN THE NEWS

Sharing a 'great hope for peace'

U.S. bishop in West Bank expresses solidarity with Catholics

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

RAFIDIA, West Bank — During a pastoral visit to the Holy Land, the vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed solidarity with Palestinian Catholics in the West Bank and focused on the situation in Gaza.

"We have come here at a troubled time with the escalation of violence in Gaza so clearly on the minds of people resurrecting the history of hurts and struggles of Palestinian and Israeli existence," said Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., who was in the Holy Land as part of the Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land.

The bishop said he saw how "deeply ingrained" the historical wounds are and sensed the people's discouragement that things can change and peace can emerge in the region.

Bishop Kicanas had hoped to visit Gaza as part of his planned itinerary, but the ongoing Israeli military attacks on Gaza made that impossible.

The delegation, in the Holy Land Jan. 9-15, also was to meet with Archbishop Antonio Franco, Vatican nuncio to Israel and the Palestinian territories, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

The purpose of the episcopal conferences' group is to express support and solidarity with Palestinian Catholics, said Bishop Kicanas, and to express to the world the desire for peace in the Holy Land.

During Mass Jan. 11 at the tiny St. Justin Church in Rafidia, adjacent to Nablus, Bishop Kicanas offered prayers for peace and hope for the

victims of violence.

"Our prayers go especially for those who are suffering and experiencing so much fear in Gaza," the bishop said in English, lamenting the fact that his Lebanese-born parents had not taught him Arabic.

"We love you as sisters and brothers. We share our faith together and that faith brings us great hope for peace and security for all people," he said.

Israel launched its aerial attacks Dec. 27 to stop an eight-yearlong campaign of rocket attacks into Israeli border towns by the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza.

Demonstrators and church and political leaders around the world have called for a cease-fire and an end to the violence as hundreds of civilians have been killed and many more are in desperate need of humanitarian aid.

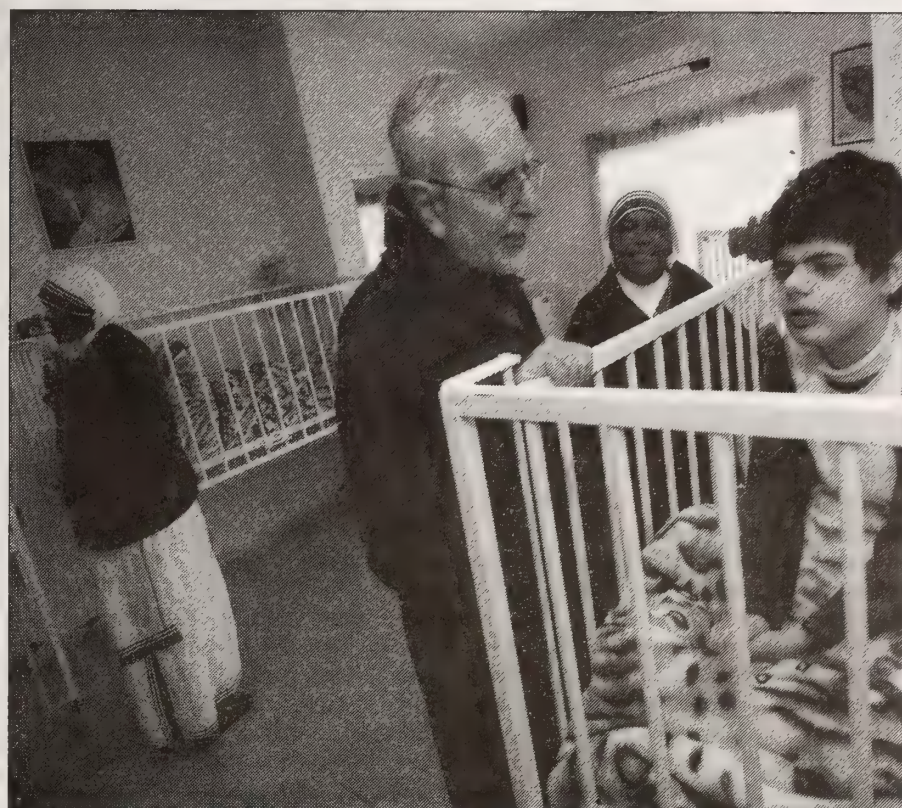
On Jan. 9, an Israeli airstrike destroyed a clinic in Gaza run by Caritas Jerusalem, a local Catholic aid agency.

'Circle of violence'

During a Jan. 9 session of the U.N. Human Rights Council concerning the situation, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, called on the international community to help end the conflict.

He said, "It is evident that the warring parties are not able to exit from this vicious circle of violence without the help of the international community that should therefore fulfill its responsibilities, intervene actively to stop the bloodshed, provide access for emergency humanitarian assistance and end all forms of confrontation."

Meanwhile, Bishop Kicanas, who has visited the Holy Land on six previous occasions, noted that only by actually seeing things on the ground can one



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visits with a child at a home run by the Missionaries of Charity in the West Bank city of Nablus Jan. 11. During his visit to the Holy Land, Bishop Kicanas offered prayers for the victims of violence, "especially for those who are suffering and experiencing so much fear in Gaza."

begin to understand the complexity of the situation.

"There is nothing more important than to come see firsthand. You learn much more and become open to the complexities of the situation," he told Catholic News Service.

Driving to Rafidia from Bethlehem, the bishop saw the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and witnessed the lines of Palestinian cars waiting to go through the numerous Israeli checkpoints along the way.

Circle of faith

Bishop Kicanas was "impressed" by the enthusiasm of the singing of the parishioners of St. Justin Church and their expression of faith.

The remote northern parish, some 20 miles north of Ramallah, rarely receives foreign guests, said Father Vincent Nagle, St. Justin Church's parish priest.

Several older parishioners come to Mass from villages where they are the only Christians left.

About 750 Christians live among 200,000 Muslims in Nablus and the surrounding area, added Father Nagle.

Visits make them feel that there are people who are concerned about them, said parishioner Deema Hanna, 27, who was among the youngest of the mostly female worshippers at the Mass.

"The Islamic world here is very strong. Any Christian who wants to do something here in Nablus, they don't have an opportunity. Sometimes we feel encircled," she said. "Our Christian community is not strong like in" the Bethlehem area.

Hilda Shyradeh, 58, described the Christians of Nablus to the bishop.

"All our neighbors are Muslims. In Nablus the Christians who have left have sold their homes to Muslims. Who else will buy them?" she said.

"We need everyone to come here and encourage us for everything, to be in our homes, to be in our country. We are small. The youth are leaving when they finish their studies," said Shyradeh.

"Sometimes it is the (Israeli) occupation pushing us out and sometimes it is the Muslims getting us out," she said.

Bishop Kicanas said he was impressed by the dedication of the parish to its small Catholic school and efforts to provide a Catholic education to the children.

"They are eager to do what they can for the young people. Obviously to educate children in a Catholic context anywhere is expensive," he said.

Together with other members of the delegation, Bishop Kicanas met with students of Bethlehem University Jan. 10.

He was concerned, he said, by the tentative nature of their future plans because of the uncertainty of their lives.

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Churches, agencies help unemployed parishioners

JOBS, from page 1

Employment Security Commission Jan. 6.

In recent weeks, North Carolina became one of three states where electronic unemployment filing systems crashed due to the heavy volume of unemployed citizens seeking benefits.

As a result, more and more out-of-work Catholics are turning to the church for help.

At St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, attendance at the Christians in Career Transition meetings has more than tripled in recent months, according to organizer Deacon Jim Hamrlik.

The ministry, which is devoted to helping people in career crisis, meets twice a month at the church and focuses primarily on helping people with networking, interviewing skills and resumé writing.

"We try to give them everything that is going to set them up to be successful," said Deacon Hamrlik.

"Sixty to 70 percent of people find jobs within three to six months," he said. "It is just a matter of them finding the formula."

St. Mark Church in Huntersville is starting a similar ministry for workers in transition called Joseph's People.

"We think a lot of people in the parish and community will benefit from it," said organizer John Buckner, a St. Mark Church parishioner.

The ultimate goal of the ministry will be to shorten the length of time that people are out of work, he said.

Fellow parishioner Larry Duke, an executive recruiter, has been holding career counseling workshops at the church.

Buckner said high attendance at

"We try to give them everything that is going to set them up to be successful."

— Deacon Jim Hamrlik

those workshops confirmed the need for a ministry dedicated to helping unemployed parishioners find jobs.

Up until last year, St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro hosted a re-employment support group.

Now church workers meet with job seekers on an individual basis, according to Colleen Assal, director of parish outreach.

Assal said the number of people coming for one-on-one assistance varies, but that they are considering reinstating the support group sometime this month if needed.

"We're hearing more and more folks are losing their jobs," she said.

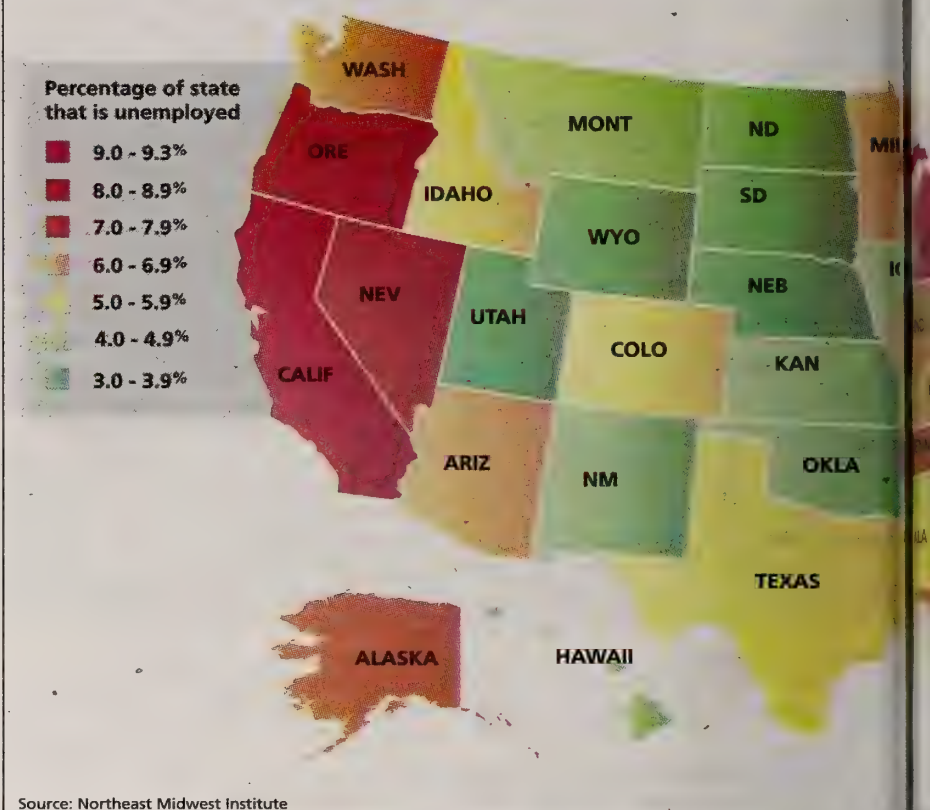
Beyond the diocese, Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ), a nonprofit religious organization that works to improve wages, benefits and conditions for workers, has recently prepared a "congregational toolkit" to help unemployed workers.

"Congregations have always stood by unemployed workers in times of struggle," said Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, who serves as co-president of IWJ's board of directors.

The toolkit outlines what resources are available to unemployed workers, suggests how to establish support groups for unemployed workers, and offers

Unemployment Rates by State

The southern and far-western states have some of the high



worship aids for lifting up unemployed workers and employers in this time of crisis.

"These congregational tools help us fulfill our mission of serving God's people," said Bishop Zavala.

In the meantime, St. Paul the Apostle Church, like many other churches in the diocese, is focusing on how to help parishioners deal with the impact of the economy by meeting their immediate needs.

"We have the food pantry assistance that we offer to our parishioners as well as to anyone who is referred to us or

comes in off the streets," said Assal.

The food pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin assisted an average of 30 to 50 families a week in the first half of 2008.

"We have seen two differences this year," wrote Pat Tuscany, a lay volunteer with the parish who helps coordinate the food pantry's efforts, in a report to parishioners.

"The first is a significant growth in people asking for assistance," she said.

The second is that "we are seeing more young families who occasionally have difficulty making ends meet."

The Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, a program of Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace, serves Catholics and other individuals struggling with economic difficulties in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties.

"We have seen an increase in people who can't pay their bills," said Claudie Burchfield, OEO director.

"Unfortunately, our area is a low-income part of the state; people are already living in poverty day to day," she said.

Burchfield said the slow down of the housing market has been particularly devastating because so many people in the area work in the construction field.

As a resource hub, Burchfield said her office does "anything and everything to help people."

"We're centered on the holistic approach of helping the family better itself," she said.

And in times like these, she said they are particularly challenged to think "outside the box."

The theme of self-empowerment also is a focus of the career ministries on

Rising Unemployment

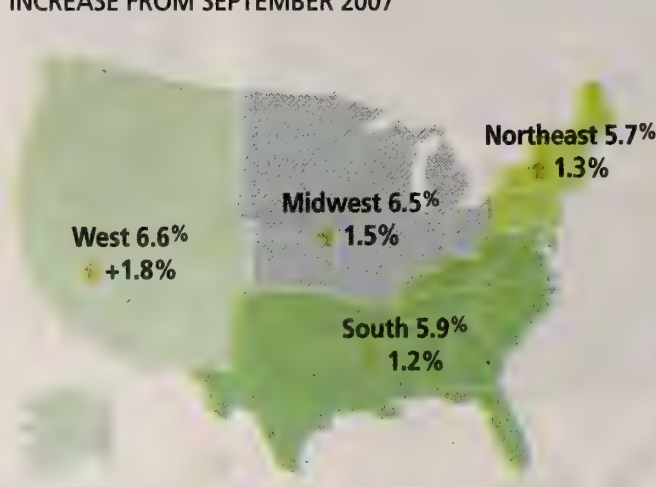
The U.S. unemployment rate has risen to more than 6 percent, the highest level since 1993.

2008 NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION, INCREASE FROM SEPTEMBER 2007

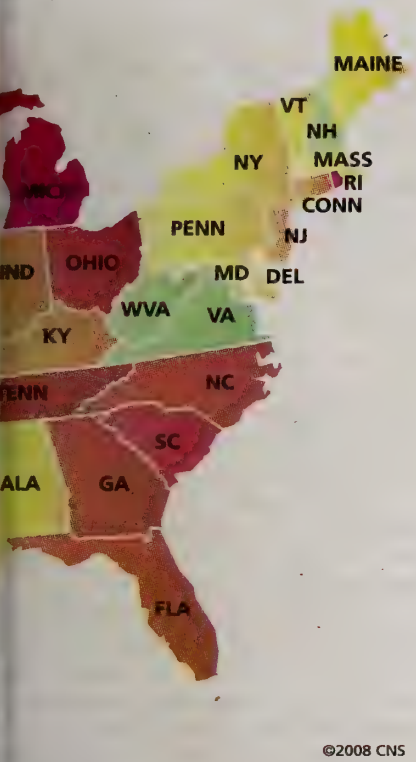


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ECONOMIC CRISIS

s find jobs

unemployment.



“We’re centered on the holistic approach of helping ...”
— Claudie Burchfield

the parish level.
The group at St. Matthew Church uses “Living Your Strengths,” an assessment from the Gallop Organization to help people determine their top five God-given talents.
Deacon Hamrik said concentrating on strengths helps to reverse the sense of failure that sometimes occurs upon losing a job.
The assessment focuses on the unique abilities of the individuals and helps them feel better about themselves.
At St. Mark Church, Buckner said they will also stress the importance of having a spiritual component to their ministry.
“Losing a job is a spiritual crisis,” he said. “We want people to understand that God is with them, the church is supporting them and there are caring Catholics who want to help.”
Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?
To view the unemployment and the economic crisis toolkit from Interfaith Worker Justice, visit www.iwj.org.

Latin America to face ‘economic stress’ in 2009

Unemployment, poverty expected to rise

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — The global economic downturn has cast a pall over the new year in Latin America.
While the region’s leaders initially struck a positive note in the face of bad news from abroad, most are now drafting plans to create jobs, keep financial systems from wobbling and shore up social programs in case of a prolonged recession.
“It’s very hard to have an upbeat outlook about the region,” where countries “are going to be under enormous stress,” Michael Shifter, vice president for policy at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue and adjunct professor of Latin American politics at Georgetown University, told Catholic News Service.
Experts say the crisis will hit poor Latin Americans hardest. It will increase unemployment, pushing more into the informal economy — without insurance, pensions or other benefits — and widen the gap between rich and poor.
Economic hardship and cuts in social spending may trigger discontent reflected at the polls or in the streets.
The worldwide financial crisis has ended a half-decade boom that saw the region’s economy expand by an average of 5 percent a year, with some countries — including Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic — growing by more than 7 percent.
The rate slowed to 4.6 percent in 2008, and the most optimistic growth forecast for 2009, by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, is 1.9 percent.
The boom was spurred by exports of raw materials such as minerals, oil and timber to the United States and emerging giants like China, as well as money sent home by migrants working abroad.
The bonanza left most of the region’s countries with a budget surplus that will cushion them against a global recession but cannot protect them completely, according to the U.N. commission’s report issued in December.
The plunge in world oil prices has hit countries like Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia, while in Peru decreased demand for metals has led to the layoff of thousands of workers by mining companies and their suppliers.
One concern is that economic woes could have political fallout, especially in countries that have been retooling their political systems in recent years.
Bolivians will go to the polls Jan. 25 to vote on a new constitution that has been a source of controversy and protest. If it is approved, as most observers predict, Congress will have to bring the country’s legislation into line with the new text, and presidential and congressional elections will be scheduled for December.
Presidential elections also will be held this year in Chile, Uruguay, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama.
In Ecuador, where a new constitution was approved last year, indigenous organizations have staged roadblocks to protest laws encouraging large-scale mining that they say would threaten the environment and their way of life.

While some observers fear that the economic crisis will deflect attention from environmental issues in the region, the Amazon likely is to be a concern in 2009, said Rick Jones, deputy regional director for global solidarity and justice at Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency.
In Brazil, where the Catholic bishops have made the Amazon a priority, the government recently announced a plan to cut deforestation in half over the next 10 years. In neighboring Peru, with financial assistance the country could stop deforestation in 10 years. European countries already have pledged more than \$7 million for forest conservation.
Budget cutbacks may cause countries to spend less on conservation, however, jeopardizing those plans.
The crunch also is forcing Latin Americans living abroad to make hard choices. Many families in Latin America depend on remittances, the money sent home by relatives abroad. In Central American countries, remittances amount to up to 40 percent of foreign earnings.
But those financial flows have slowed. While remittances jumped from \$30 billion to \$45.5 billion between 2004 and 2006, the figure leveled off to \$45.9 billion last year.
Only half of Latin Americans living abroad said they sent money home in 2008, down from 73 percent in 2006. Cutting the remittance lifeline could push more families below the poverty line, spurring a new wave of migration, according to the Inter-American Development Bank.
People in desperate economic straits may take even greater risks to get past tighter U.S. border controls, making them more likely to fall prey to traffickers who force them into virtual slavery to pay off their travel debt once they get to the United States. Drug smuggling, migrant smuggling and human trafficking have converged under the control of the same cartels, making the migration gamble even more dangerous.
Ultimately, the best crystal ball turns cloudy when queried about 2009, because it is difficult to predict how long the worldwide recession will last or its precise impact on the various parts of an increasingly diverse region.
Both Jones and Shifter expect countries to scale back social programs as they pump more money into jump-starting their economies.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Another book about Merton? This one's well worth the read

REVIEWED BY DAVID GIBSON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Forty years after Trappist Father Thomas Merton's death, "so many different people are still sifting through his spiritual journey and finding parts that aid their own," writes Morgan Atkinson in "Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton."

The subtitle is significant because this book focuses in a unique manner on a spiritual journey — or, better, journeys: Merton's, Atkinson's and the reader's.

"Soul Searching" is not a biography. Nonetheless, it conveys the story of a man who in late 1941 at age 26 left a rather wayward life behind to join the Trappist monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky.

Little did he know that he was soon to be recognized as one of America's foremost writers on spirituality, following the 1948 publication of his best-selling autobiography, "The Seven Storey Mountain."

Today, long after Father Merton's accidental death during a trip to Asia, the vast body of his writing on spirituality and major social issues continues to illuminate, guide and challenge so many!

"I don't know that we have caught up with him yet," says Sister Kathleen Deignan, a Sister of Notre Dame. "To me he's someone who moves ahead. The horizon keeps expanding as he recedes from us."

Sister Deignan, a religious studies professor at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., is one of some 30 people Atkinson interviewed whose reflections are shared with this book's readers. Those interviewed include friends and associates of Father Merton, and experts on his life.

Atkinson refers to them as the "choir," but their assessments are hardly identical.

Atkinson, a longtime filmmaker, has created a one-hour DVD documentary about Father Merton, also titled "Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton."

Indeed, the publisher terms the DVD and the book "companion" works, and the DVD is included with the book.

But why have the book at all then? Atkinson explains that squeezing more than 60 hours of interviews into an hourlong video left a lot of "very rich material."

He writes: "A book including a far wider sampling of the insights from these interviews offers a great opportunity to share more about this important man and his spiritual journey. If you accept that premise, read on."

Having viewed the DVD and read the book, I encourage you to "accept that premise." I relished the book's ability to make clear that while Father Merton was

a cloistered monk and even, at times, a hermit, in so many ways his pilgrimage is our pilgrimage, his quest is ours.

Atkinson says "the main voice" he wanted people to hear was Father Merton's, "speaking in the personal, conversational manner of his journals."

But Atkinson "wanted to complement this with the thoughts of a mix of people who would not simply praise the good monk and great writer but would help present the complexity of this man."

In this, I believe Atkinson succeeded.

I confess that from a young age I admired Father Merton, not because I felt he always had final answers for my biggest questions but because so many of his questions resembled my own. I viewed him as a courageous searcher.

Jonathan Montaldo recalls Father Merton once saying, "I need something that I don't even know yet, something that I don't even know that I don't have."

Montaldo, resident director of the Merton Institute Retreat Center near Gethsemani, was one of those Atkinson interviewed.

"Soul Searching" affords readers an opportunity to look inside Father Merton, so to speak.

Atkinson writes that Father Merton, "despite his extraordinary gifts, had an abundance of human foibles with which most of us struggle." In fact, says Atkinson, this "struggle with his humanity" is what "makes (Father Merton's) writing and life so interesting."

Father Merton possessed a "spiritual curiosity" that manifested "something that characterized him in general," according to Bonnie Thurston, a founding member of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Holy Cross Sister Elena Malits of St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., thinks Father Merton "was a compulsive writer" who "had to discipline himself not to write."

Father Merton "adamantly refused to let himself be called a conservative or a liberal," she notes.

Do we need another book about Thomas Merton? I asked myself that question when this book arrived. But reading it was a happy experience.

Better than that, it provided a refreshing opportunity to revisit a man who had a marvelous way of pointing ordinary people like me toward a deeper spirituality.

"Societies need people who can stand outside the system and look at it from a different perspective. I think Merton did that," comments Brother Paul Quenon, a monk at Gethsemani.

I think he is right.

Gibson was the founding editor of *Origins*, Catholic News Service's documentary service. He retired in 2007 after holding that post for 36 years.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 25, 2009

Jan. 25, Feast of the
Conversion of St. Paul,
Apostle

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 22:3-16
Psalm 117:1bc, 2
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 16:15-18

It's never too late to turn to and serve Christ

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My wife began her journey back to the Lord in 1988 at an air show at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, four years before I met her.

Her story is tragic and miraculous.

She had been living a fairly worldly life, doing some things that should have had her knocking at the door of the confessional, but in truth she had not darkened the door of a church for almost 10 years.

At that air show, two Italian jets in a maneuver overhead accidentally clipped wings and sent burning jet fuel and plane parts raining down on the crowd.

On either side of her people were killed instantly. She ran for her life.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, she reflected on her life, trying to find an answer to why she, with the way she had been living, had survived.

She had not spoken to God in years, and all she could think of to say was: "God, are you out there? If you exist, then you have to tell me what to do."

This Sunday's readings bring us another story with similar words, St. Paul's first words to Jesus: "Who are you, sir?" and "What shall I do, sir?"

In Acts we learn that on the road to Damascus, where he was going to persecute Christians, St. Paul heard a voice calling out from a bright light, "Why are you persecuting me?"

He replied, "Who are you, sir?"

Then he heard, "I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting."

Upon hearing this Paul said: "What shall I do, sir?"

St. Paul had been persecuting Jesus and the early church. His encounter with Jesus was his moment of conversion.

My wife says that she was killing Jesus every day with her choices. The shock of surviving the air show tragedy propelled her to her conversion.

Conversion is the starting point of faith. Whether our turning to Jesus was dramatic or gradual, this feast of the conversion of St. Paul is a good time to remember why it is we believe.

It is never too late — or too often — to ask: Who are you, sir? What shall I do, sir?

Questions:

What is your conversion story?

Who are the people who have helped you grow in faith?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Who are you, sir? ... What shall I do, sir?" (Acts 22:8, 10).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 18-24

Sunday (Second Sunday of Ordinary Time), 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19, 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42; Monday, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; Tuesday (St. Fabian, St. Sebastian), Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-38; Wednesday (St. Agnes), Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; Thursday (St. Vincent), Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; Friday, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; Saturday (St. Francis de Sales), Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 25-31

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20; Monday (Sts. Timothy and Titus), 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:22-30; Tuesday (St. Angela Merici), Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 3:31-35; Wednesday (St. Thomas Aquinas), Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-20; Thursday, Hebrews 10:19-25, Mark 4:21-25; Friday, Hebrews 10:32-39, Mark 4:26-34; Saturday (St. John Bosco), Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Mark 4:35-41.

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Nun works for former student as technical adviser on 'Doubt'

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — For Sister Margaret McEntee, her roles in religious life have ranged from being a teacher to a campus minister to a fan of a former student's work to working for that former student when he directed a film adaptation of his own Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

And now the "job" for the Sister of Charity, or "Sister Peggy" as she commonly refers to herself, is giving interviews about that student, John Patrick Shanley, and his new movie, "Doubt."

She's been interviewed by CBS News and USA Today, among others.

Yet she still finds time to fulfill her current ministry — being a religion teacher and campus minister at the all-girl Notre Dame High School in Manhattan — and to enjoy the work she had a bit of a hand in creating.

"The movie's actually better than the play," Sister McEntee told Catholic News Service in a Dec. 11 telephone interview from New York City, "and I've seen the play four times."

One reason for her avid early interest is that one of the drama's characters was named after her. Some 50 years ago, Johnny Shanley was a first grader at St. Anthony School in the Bronx. His teacher was Sister Peggy — known then as Sister James.

"Doubt" concerns suspicions harbored by the principal and a teacher at a New York City Catholic grade school, circa 1964, that a parish priest may be molesting the school's first black student.

"Shanley has successfully adapted his drama," said Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, in a review of the film.

"Though sexual misconduct is at the heart of the story, it is the balance between doubt which, as Shanley has said, 'allows for growth and change' and premature certainty, which only leads to a 'dead end' — that forms the principal thematic subtext. His metaphorical critique is directed not at the church but at those who insist on absolutes in society at large."

"Doubt" was classified by the JSCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting as A-III — adults, for its "discreetly handled sexual abuse theme."

As technical adviser, Sister McEntee said she, among other things, helped the props crew understand the nature of the Mass before the wave of liturgical reforms — including use of the vernacular — was ushered in starting in Advent 1964.

Although, Sister McEntee told CNS, "I don't think we saw them until 1968" in New York.

Sister McEntee took actress Meryl Streep, one of five "Doubt"-related Golden Globe nominees, to the Sisters of Charity's retirement home in upstate New York to meet Sister Marilda Joseph, "the only living member of our congregation who still wears the old habit" depicted in the movie.

There were lots of pictures taken, she added, and Streep stayed for supper.

Shanley wanted to be a stickler for period accuracy. The exterior of St. Anthony School, which he had attended and where Sister McEntee once taught, was filmed as the fictional St. Nicholas School in the movie.

Moreover, Shanley used names of past classmates, although some were changed for legal issues. One slight change was that of the principal. In "Doubt," it's Sister Aloysius. In real life, it was Sister Aloysia.

And, yes, the principal was every bit as hard as nails as Streep plays her in the movie.

Sister McEntee had high praise for the cast.

"I was just very impressed with the woman's sensitivity," she said of Streep. Philip Seymour Hoffman, who plays the suspected priest, "is a fine man, very engaging and very approachable."

As for Amy Adams, "I just fell in love with her," Sister McEntee said. "She plays Sister James, so I'd better like her!"

She said that at a preview screening attended by other members of her order, they heard "Tantum Ergo" used as a recessional hymn.

"After the preview with the sisters, we said that's really not appropriate," since its use was for Benedictions, she added. "And they changed it."

Sister McEntee, now 73, has acquired a nickname for her recent efforts: "Sister Hollywood." Notre Dame faculty and staff used that moniker while organizing a premiere-night dinner-and-a-movie outing with their newly famous colleague.

For her own part, Sister McEntee thinks that "Doubt" could help with vocations, as the movie shows two sisters in their "loving kindness trying to help a boy they think has been hurt."

But in recalling that she promoted religious life one day to her Notre Dame students, she said, "I looked at my girls: 'I don't know how many years teaching I have left. Wouldn't one of you like to replace me?' And they looked at me like I'm crazy."



CNS PHOTO COURTESY SISTER MARGARET MCENTEE

Above: Sister Margaret McEntee is pictured in 1956 with her first-grade class at St. Anthony's School in the Bronx section of New York. Sister McEntee's former religious name, Sister James, was used by an old first-grade pupil of hers, writer-director John Patrick Shanley, for a character in the movie "Doubt."

"The movie's actually better than the play"



CNS PHOTO BY MIRAMAX

Below: Amy Adams and Meryl Streep talk with writer-director John Patrick Shanley on the set of the movie "Doubt." Shanley says the values he learned in Catholic school still direct him in his work and life.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

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2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured Dec. 2 with items donated by school families for U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The items filled 43 boxes and were sent to members of the 1st Infantry Division stationed in Baghdad and Hurriyah. The care packages included cards for the soldiers and toys and candy for Iraqi children. The school will continue to communicate with and pray for the soldiers during their deployment.

Helping hands



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Michelle Snoke films Johnny O'Boyle and Tucker Windle, students of Charlotte Catholic High School and members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as they appear on St. Gabriel School's Jaguar TV with students Emma Caponigro, T.J. DiVittorio and Morgan McElhane Dec. 15, 2008. The athletes visited St. Gabriel School to announce a dress-down day themed "Hands Around Our School: Hand in Hand with Holy Angels." The event raised \$605 for Holy Angels, a nonprofit corporation in Belmont founded by the Sisters of Mercy for children and adults with mental retardation.

A check was presented to Holy Angels during a basketball tournament fundraiser held at Charlotte Catholic Dec. 19-20.

Jaguar TV, in its second year of operation, was made possible by a grant from the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation.

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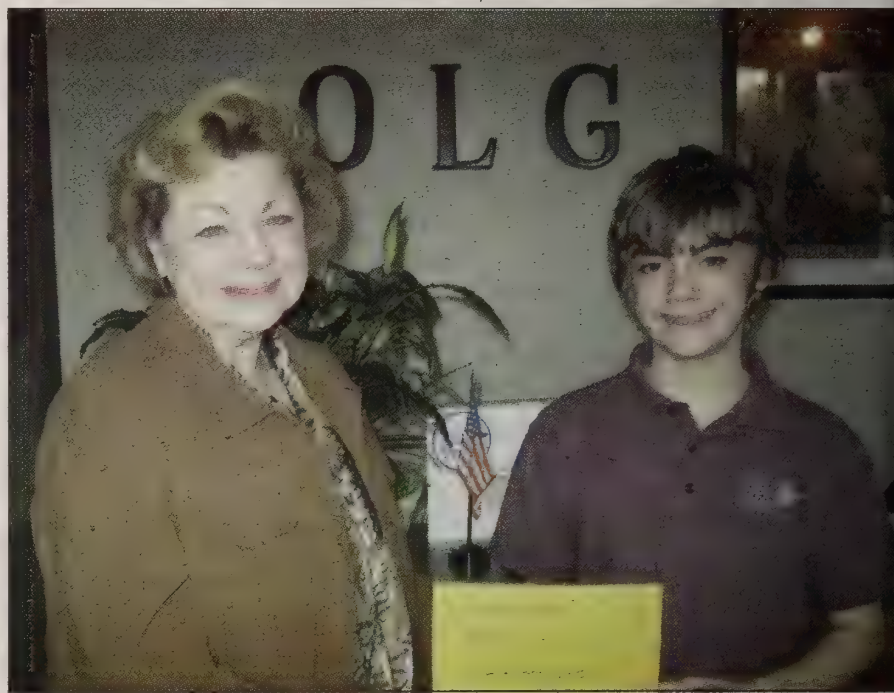


COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-grader Carolina Anderson and kindergartener Kate Broadnax of St. Gabriel School in Charlotte are pictured in December 2007 with one of 100 blankets made by students for patients of Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte.

The student prayer partners — kindergarten students are paired up with fifth-graders — worked on the blankets during Advent. The blankets were delivered to the hospital Dec. 18.

Gift of giving



COURTESY PHOTO

Stratton Barth, student council president at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, presents gift cards to Elizabeth Hedgecock of Room at the Inn of the Carolinas Dec. 15, 2008. The students raised \$475 to purchase 25 gift cards for residents of the maternity care facility.

Also that month, the student council hosted a middle school dance Dec. 5 that collected 125 pounds of canned goods for Greensboro Urban Ministry.

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IN THE NEWS

Build bridges, not walls

Obama, Mexican president both urged to care for migrants

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — More than a week before he was to take office, President-elect Barack Obama met with Mexican President Felipe Calderon, prompting advice and recommendations about how the two leaders' governments should be handling immigration, among other matters.

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' migration committee, encouraged the two men to end abuses against migrants and put more effort into economic development to deter people from leaving their homelands.

"The issue of illegal immigration transcends borders and must be addressed on a regional, if not hemispheric level," Bishop Wester said in a statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington Jan. 12, the day Obama and Calderon met.

The bishop said the long-term solution to illegal immigration "is not militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, but economic development in poor nations. At a minimum, U.S. trade and international economic policies should not contribute to this forced migration."

A meeting with the president

of Mexico before or soon after the inauguration of the U.S. president has become something of a tradition for the neighboring leaders.

Obama and Calderon held a private lunch at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington and met briefly with the press, describing their discussion only in general terms.

They said they talked about organized crime, immigration reform, the financial crisis, energy and other hemisphere issues. Calderon met with President George W. Bush the next day.

Obama was elected by a wide margin among Hispanic and immigrant voters and expectations are high for new approaches in dealing with immigration and policies that affect Latin American countries.

Bishop Wester's statement reminded the two leaders that "migrants risk their well-being and lives to migrate in order to find work and support their families — it is a decision made out of necessity, not choice."

He encouraged Obama and Calderon to "build bridges of cooperation, not walls of separation."

The bishop also referenced a joint 2003 statement by U.S. and Mexican bishops in which they said Mexico also must reform its immigration laws and policies, "so that



CNS PHOTO BY LARRY DOWNING, REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama speaks during a meeting with Mexico's President Felipe Calderon at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington Jan. 12.

migrants from Central and South America are not subject to exploitation."

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said the president-elect credited Calderon with improving security in Mexico and pledged further efforts, especially in the border states of both countries, to eliminate drug-related violence and stop the flow of guns and money.

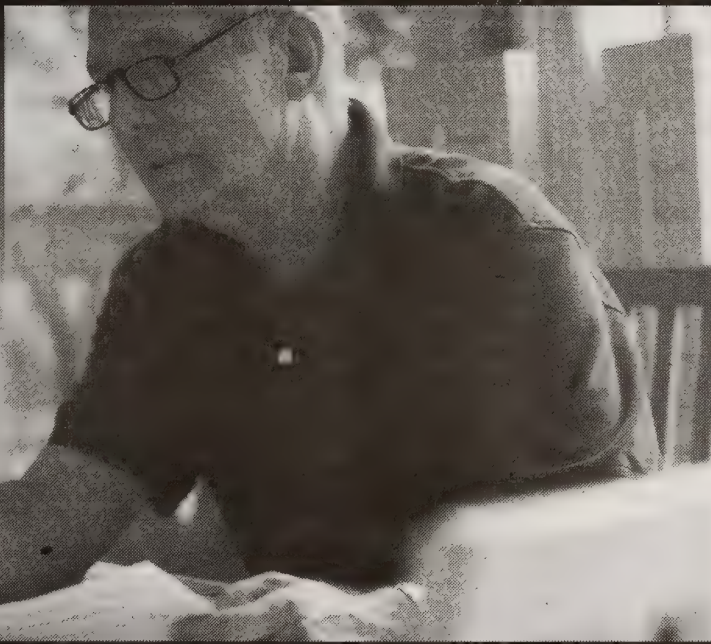
Gibbs said the two men also talked about the North American Free Trade Agreement, with Obama saying he supports updating the agreement to strengthen labor

and environmental provisions.

"President-elect Obama underscored his commitment to working with Congress to fix the broken U.S. immigration system and fostering safe, legal and orderly migration," he said.

"He expressed his strongly held view that immigrants should be treated with dignity and that the immigration debate should not be a vehicle for vilifying any group, and that our two countries need to work more effectively to stop the flow of illegal immigration into the United States," Gibbs said.

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Human rights groups denounce police assault on migrants

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Catholic leaders and human rights groups have condemned the actions of Chiapas state police accused of opening fire as they chased a truck carrying approximately 45 undocumented migrants.

The Jan. 9 incident left three migrants dead and six seriously injured near the Mexican-Guatemalan border, said the Chiapas-based Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Center.

The center said in a Jan. 11 report that police "indiscriminately fired" until the driver lost control and struck a tree. Migrants interviewed by the center denied allegations that shots were fired at state police members from the vehicle.

Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristobal de Las Casas said the incidents of abuse against migrants crossing into southern Mexico, usually on their way to the United States, are common and that his diocese is building two new shelters to provide better assistance and protection.

Mexico's National Human Rights Commission announced Jan. 12 that it would open an investigation into police actions it called "arbitrary" and "excessive."

Criminal sanctions for being in Mexico without proper immigration documents were discarded last year, but observers say that migrants are still preyed upon by unscrupulous public officials while traveling through the country.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Silent No More

Campaign to show post-abortion grief is no longer forbidden

Abuse victims often use the phrase "silent no more" to indicate their response to being victimized.

It may be surprising to some in our society that as our nation reaches another anniversary of the abortion decisions Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, women from coast to coast are uniting under the banner of "Silent No More" because they have had abortions.

Not illegal "back alley" abortions, but abortions in legal "clinics."

These women do not consider themselves freed, empowered or ennobled because of their abortions. Rather, they testify that they were enslaved, weakened and wounded. They were, in short, given a false promise, which is the essence of all temptation.

They were told that this "procedure" would solve their problems. Instead, it brought more problems than they care to think about — namely, a whole range of physical and psychological wounds often described by the term "post-abortion syndrome."

What are these women doing to express their message? In Washington, D.C. and in cities across the country, they will gather publicly at rallies and prayer events and hold signs that say, "I Regret My Abortion." The Washington gathering will, in fact, be at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court on the very date, Jan. 22, that abortion was legalized in the United States.

This campaign is organized worldwide by Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life, and is the largest mobilization ever of women and men who have lost children to abortion. Along with public gatherings, the men and women speak in legislative assemblies, in the media and in churches.

But why do this? If abortion is so

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



painful, some will ask, why make a public display out of one's experience?

The answer is understood only if one knows how shameful and painful the silence of abortion is. The grief that follows abortion is, in the words of Dr. Theresa Burke, a "forbidden grief."

The grief is not acknowledged; it is not validated. People don't send sympathy cards or talk about it openly. In fact, those who grieve their children killed by abortion are often made to feel silly for feeling sad.

After all, they are told by society that they exercised a choice that solved a problem. Why grieve over that?

Such questions, of course, reveal a complete blindness to the fact that killing one's child hurts, and leaves a wound that Mom or Dad does not ever forget.

These men and women are tired of having pro-choice advocates pretend to speak for them. They want to tell the world, in their own words, that what is too easily celebrated as a "choice" and a "right" is in fact a painful burden.

Not every post-abortive person has found enough healing to be able to participate in these public rallies or hold these signs. But the participants in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign pray that their presence will assist their sisters and brothers on the road to healing, and give them some measure of comfort to know that their grief is no longer forbidden.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

their care can hold on until they can be comforted by them.

And just as any caring father would, priests also discipline and teach the children under their care through the sacrament of reconciliation. And they bless them every time they come for Mass to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Our spiritual Fathers are on their knees constantly for all of us, their parish "children," to pray for our needs and concerns. They have legacies that live in the hearts of the faithful long after they are gone. So contrary to the way the world might see the Catholic priesthood — such as, a "giving up" of progeny — with the eyes of faith we can see that our Fathers have thousands of children. And they are called to love them all.

It was in this frame of mind that I heard the words during the consecration of the bread and wine: "This is my body,

No 'hooray' for Catholics in Congress

In Nancy Frazier O'Brien's article ("Catholic contingent: Number of Catholics in Congress edging up; more are Democrats," Jan. 9), one might assume that the products of our legislative branch would reflect more and more our Catholic values. Sadly, the opposite appears to be true.

While pointing out the Congress statistics, and that our vice-president elect and several of the incoming Cabinet nominees are Catholic, O'Brien conveys a "Hooray for the Catholics!" attitude. But perhaps more valuable would be an analysis of these Catholics' voting records on Catholic moral issues.

The scandalous attitude Catholic Democrat politicians have on abortion, euthanasia, homosexual unions and embryonic stem-cell research is shameful to the church and to Catholics who work tirelessly to uphold its teachings.

Until the Catholics in politics start representing the church's moral teachings consistently and publicly, they are nothing more than just secular voices in our nation's political machine. As the inevitable attempt for the passage of the Freedom of Choice Act moves closer, we must pray that our Catholic brethren in Congress remember how valuable life really is and vote accordingly. Only then can we collectively say "hooray" for our fellow Catholics in Congress.

— Mary Paul Forsyth
Charlotte

I find it disheartening that our diocesan newspaper publishes a front-page article heralding the increased number of so-called "Catholics" in Congress, particularly in the Democratic Party ("Catholic contingent: Number of Catholics in Congress edging up; more are Democrats," Jan. 9).

What is the point of emphasizing that a large number of our congressional representatives are Catholic when they vote contrary to Catholic teaching with respect to the sanctity of life? Nowhere in the article does it mention that a significant number of them, especially those in leadership positions, have unabashedly supported abortion rights.

Bishops throughout our nation are fretting over the possibility that Congress will pass the Freedom of Choice Act,

Letters to the Editor

which will further embolden the culture of death that pervades this country.

If that bill becomes law, will The Catholic News & Herald highlight on page one the names of these so-called Catholic members of Congress who supported the legislation?

— Ray FitzGerald
Huntersville

"Catholic contingent: Number of Catholics in Congress edging up; more are Democrats" (Jan. 9) does not take into consideration that all Catholics should be in conformity with the precepts of the Catholic Church.

Being a Catholic is not just based on being born and baptized; it is based on believing and practicing the Catholic faith. Those mentioned in the article have a "pick-and-choose" attitude toward Catholic teachings on topics such as abortion and same-sex marriage. How can they be respected when, for example, they ignore the efforts of practicing Catholics to defeat the scourge of abortion?

— Gloria White
Charlotte

Peaceful solutions abound to conflict

In response to "Priest's message at Mass for peace: Gaza 'drowning in blood,'" (Jan. 9): As Catholics we should educate ourselves about the history of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East so we can have an objective view and not one influenced by the television and newspaper media telling us, about who our enemies and allies are.

We are accountable to God for the armchair wars we fight when God has told us to love our enemies. Our love for Christ, the Prince of Peace, should compel us to use whatever means we have — including protesting this senseless slaughter — so our country and the world will know that Catholics truly believe there are infinite peaceful solutions to every conflict in this world.

— Shea Barry
Charlotte

Guest Column

ANITA VEYERA
GUEST COLUMNIST

given up for you." They were not only Jesus' words, but express the attitude of Mary when asked by God to carry his child. In her "divine 'Yes,'" Mary too began an act of supernatural parenthood — when she became Christ's mother, she also became ours.

Catholics should rejoice that we have so many in heaven and on earth to parent and guide us. It is their sacrifices and love that enable us to see God's design more clearly.

Veyera is a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

A perspective on spiritual parenting

After a year and-a-half of trying, and praying many rosaries, my husband and I finally conceived — on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Every parent thinks his or her child is special, but we have hopes for a priestly vocation for our son. And when I expressed this to a friend, she quite offhandedly remarked, "Maybe by then priests will be able to marry and you can have grandchildren as well."

Priests are more than "Fathers" in title, as they often resemble biological fathers. Like many fathers, priests too are awakened at 3 a.m. — to anoint and comfort children who are in grave peril. They pray, bleary-eyed while driving to hospitals, that the children under

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. Letters must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Facing an unknown future

Gleaming wisdom from past U.S. presidents

Barack Obama is not the first president of the United States to face a vastly unknown future as he pledges to lead the country with honor and trust, seeking to be a moral leader who can hopefully gain lasting respect both at home and abroad.

To refresh my memory, I have read the inaugural addresses of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt — four presidents I believe were God-sent to Americans in perilous times.

Their words still inspire me.

On April 30, 1789, George Washington, humbly accepting the honor and responsibility of becoming the first president of the new nation, said his first “official act” was to “fervently” reach out to that “almighty Being who rules over the universe,” seeking “his benediction.”

Washington continued: “There is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity. ...

“The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained.”

Then, confidently, he underscored that “the preservation of the sacred fire of

liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly ... staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.”

Washington expressed not just our destiny, but our challenge!

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln gave his first inaugural address, acknowledging the turbulence between the North and the South, saying, “One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. ...

“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect and defend it.’”

And then Lincoln predicted that the Union would prevail when all are again touched “by the better angels of our nature.”

On March 4, 1913, Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, was elected president after many years of Republican rule. His inaugural address didn’t sit well with many.

He said, “The great government we loved has too often been made use of for private and selfish purposes, and those who used it had forgotten the people.”

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



Then, emphasizing that government must be put “at the service of humanity,” and that this is not a “sentimental duty,” he underscored, “The firm basis of government is justice, not pity.”

On March 4, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt inherited the job of leading the United States when practically every bank had been closed, 13 million people were unemployed, many industries had ceased to operate and the agrarian economy was at an all-time low.

His words were honest: “Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.”

Bravely, he challenged Americans: “These dark days will be worth all they cost us if they teach us that our true destiny is not to be ministered unto, but to minister to ourselves and to our fellow men.”

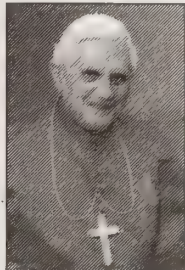
And now, President Barack Obama’s inaugural address will also become history.

May God bless him with truth and wisdom.

United with Christ, people have nothing, no one to fear, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While people lacking faith in God may dread numerous dangers and hostile forces in the world, those who are firmly united with Christ have nothing and no one to fear, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Jesus Christ is above every form of domination and “he is the true Lord of the world,” the pope said Jan. 14 at his weekly general audience.

With an estimated 4,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the theme of Christ as the head of the church and the universe.

In his letters to the Colossians and to the Ephesians, St. Paul gives Christians an enormously positive and important message: that Christ is above “every form of power that might aim to humiliate the human being,” said the pope.

Here is the text of the pope’s audience remarks in English.

My favorite quotes

Words of wisdom from throughout history

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, “I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete” (Jn 15:11).

Victor Hugo (1802-1885), the great French writer, didn’t believe in God for most of his life, but in his later years he wrote: “The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.”

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, a 19th-century Carmelite nun, explained, “The secret of happiness, and the secret of all the saints, is that they loved God as friend.”

Rosa Baines from Edmonton, Canada, said, “I have at times wondered whether God allows sorrow and pain into our lives so that we can truly appreciate the times of happiness and joy ... a sunrise or sunset, birds soaring, flowers blooming, celebrating Christmas with family and friends, attending weddings or baptisms, or just watching children play.”

Blessed Julian of Norwich: “The Lord wants us to rejoice in the fullness of joy. He, who will be our bliss when we are in heaven, is our protection while we are here on our way. ... Let us flee to the Lord, and we shall be comforted. Let us touch him and we shall be made clean.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945),

the Lutheran theologian and martyr who opposed the Nazi movement in Germany, commented: “Nothing can make up for the absence of someone you love. ... The dearer and richer the memories might be, the more difficult the separation.

“But gratitude changes the pangs of memory into tranquil joy. The beauties of the past are borne, not as a thorn in the flesh but as a precious gift.”

Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens wrote: “The Holy Spirit comes like a great wind; it is we who must adjust our sails.”

St. Francis de Sales counseled: “Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day.

“Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.”

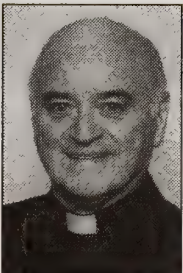
St. Teresa of Avila taught: “Trust the past to God’s mercy and the future to God’s divine providence.”

Henry Ward Beecher observed: “The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the whole wide world’s joy.”

At a general audience in April 2002, Pope John Paul II addressed the pilgrims

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



with these words: “The need for God is a need that can be as physical as the need for food and water. Just as the arid land is dead until irrigated by rain, so the faithful yearn for God in order to exist in joyful communion with him.”

In his Advent meditations, Pope John Paul wrote: “Christ came to bring joy; joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and friends, joy to workers and scholars, joy to the sick and elderly, joy to all humanity. In a true sense joy is the keynote message of Christianity and the recurring motif of the Gospels. Go therefore and become messengers of joy.”

Jesus, throughout his public ministry, taught us to cheer up: “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world” (Jn 16:33).

The simplicity of his statement is disarming, but you must believe him when he says, “Your grief will become joy” (Jn 16:20).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on St. Paul, we turn to the “twin” letters: Colossians and Ephesians. Similar in language, they are unique in developing the theme of Christ as “head” — kephalé — not only of the church, but also of the entire universe.

These letters assure us that Christ is above any hostile earthly power. Christ alone “loved us and gave himself up for us” (Eph 5:2), so that if we remain close to him, we need not fear any adversity. It was God’s plan to “recapitulate” all things in Jesus “through whom all things were created,” so that “by the blood of his cross” we might be reconciled to the Father.

Christ’s headship also implies that, in a certain sense, he is greater than the church in that his dominion extends beyond her boundaries, and that the church, rather than the entire cosmos, is referred to as the Body of Christ.

These letters are also notable for the spousal image they use to describe how Christ has “won” his bride — the church — by giving his life for her (cf. Eph 5:25). What greater sign of love could there be than this?

Christ thus desires that we grow more beautiful each day through irreproachable moral conduct, “without wrinkle or defect” (Eph 5:27).

By living uprightly and justly, may we bear witness to the nuptial union which has already taken place in Christ as we await its fulfillment in the wedding feast to come.



NS PHOTO BY MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI/POOL VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI baptizes one of 13 infants in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 11.

Bridging the path of grace

Pope baptizes infants, emphasizes parents' formation role

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an annual liturgy, Pope Benedict XVI baptized 13 infants and emphasized the duty of parents and godparents to educate them in the faith.

The pope strongly defended the practice of infant baptism, saying it acts as a "bridge" between human beings and God, and helps lead children along the path of grace.

The Mass Jan. 11 marked the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The pontiff celebrated the liturgy in the Sistine Chapel, where the crying of babies reverberated off the frescoed walls and ceiling.

The pope poured water from a shell-shaped dipper onto the head of each of the 13 infants — nine boys and four girls, the children of Vatican employees.

In his sermon, the pope said parents should consider children not as their personal property to be shaped according to their own ideas and desires, but as free children of God who need to be educated in order to make the right choices in life.

Infant baptism, he told parents, does no violence to children, but rather introduces them into "a new family,

greater and more stable, and more open and numerous than your own."

"Baptism is in a sense the bridge that God has built between himself and us, the road by which he makes himself accessible to us," he said.

"It is the divine rainbow over our lives, the promise of God's great 'yes,' the door of hope and, at the same time, the sign that shows us the path to walk," he said.

As in the same liturgy the previous year, Pope Benedict celebrated Mass at the chapel's original fixed altar that stands against the wall covered by Michelangelo's fresco of "The Last Judgment." That meant that during parts of the Mass the pope was turned away from the people.

Later, at his noon talk to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about baptism as a moment of joy and a great gift.

"If we fully realized this, our lives would be a continual grace," he said.

At the same time, he said, baptism implies a serious responsibility for parents and for godparents, who must educate their children according to the Gospel.

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAMILIES OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID AGREN

Martin Perez carries his son Benjamin as he stands next to his wife Rosalind Bribiesca while waiting for lunch at the Sixth World Meeting of Families in Mexico City Jan. 14. The couple attended the five-day meeting with their six children.

Church leaders reaffirm traditional family at meeting in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Participants at the Sixth World Meeting of Families made impassioned defenses of the traditional family while rejecting allegations from protesters and local leftist politicians that the Catholic Church has been preaching exclusion.

Speakers on the first day of the Jan. 14-18 meeting, which organizers say is being attended by more than 8,000 participants from more than 90 countries, emphasized the traditional definition of family — father, mother and children — while discarding suggestions that the institution be expanded to include homosexual couples. The meeting was organized by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family.

"The church — we teach respect for marriage between a man and a woman because that is the foundation of the family," Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City said during his opening remarks Jan. 14.

His comments at the five-day meeting were echoed by other speakers, including Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec City, who said during a discussion on values, "Marriage and the family have turned into a battlefield, where secularization is attempting to injure the family."

The meeting of families has provoked some controversy in Mexico City, where the local government has been liberalizing laws on abortion, euthanasia and same-sex unions over the past two years.

A small left-wing party famed for championing contentious social issues protested outside the convention center, saying that the meeting only promoted one family model.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who inaugurated the meeting, also raised some eyebrows as Mexican leaders traditionally have avoided publicly being seen at large church events.

Father Jose Aguilar, director of radio and TV for the Archdiocese of Mexico City, told Catholic News Service that the president's appearance simply showed an increased tolerance for the church on the part of public officials.

Regarding the protesters, he explained that Cardinal Rivera had given a written response to the Social Democratic Party, known as the PSD, on the subject of family diversity.

Father Aguilar added that the meeting of families was being attended by many non-Catholics, including the Mexican heads of non-Christian faiths.

Vatican Embassy in Venezuela attacked with tear-gas bombs

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — The Vatican Embassy in Caracas was attacked with tear-gas bombs amid rising tensions over a vote to amend the constitution, Catholic officials said.

The six bombs, thrown at 5:30 a.m. Jan. 19, caused no injuries, but generated an angry protest from Archbishop Roberto Luckert Leon of Coro, vice president of the Venezuelan bishops' conference, who called the act "an abuse."

"They're trying to create a climate of violence and generate fear in everybody who dissents" from the government of President Hugo Chavez, Archbishop Luckert said.

He also said the government was not fulfilling its obligation to protect the embassy, or nunciature.

Those who threw the tear-gas bombs left leaflets from a pro-Chavez activist group accused of attacking a television station and the home of a journalist

critical of the government.

On Feb. 15, Venezuelans will vote on a government-proposed constitutional amendment that would remove term limits for all elected officials. Catholic Church leaders, who have long accused Chavez of concentrating too much power in the presidency, have criticized the proposed amendment.

The nunciature is also housing an opposition student leader, Nixon Moreno, who is seeking political asylum overseas. Venezuelan officials want to try Moreno as a common criminal.

After the tear-gas bombing, Moreno's attorney, Tamara Suju, said that the canisters had come from CAVIM, the military's official arms supplier.

"How is it possible that armed paramilitary groups acting with impunity in the country have weapons issued by CAVIM?" she asked. "We demand answers from the Venezuelan state."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a special Mass for the sanctity of life at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Don Franz at (828) 697-8194.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An open house will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption School, 4225 Shamrock Dr., Jan. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Come experience academic excellence in the Catholic tradition. For more information, call (704) 531-0067.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Bilingual instruction is available for Spanish speakers. Classes are

free, but registration is required. Call for the schedule as classes will not be held on certain dates. For more information, call Nettie Watkins at the Allegro Foundation (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Over the past few years awareness and devotion to St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer and incurable diseases, have grown at the parish. Beginning in February, a healing prayer service will be offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., presents a free concert by Al Barbarino Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. (note the date and time change of the concert). He also will sing at all of the weekend Masses Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Barbarino is a lay Franciscan of the St. Padre Pio Shelter in New York and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He sings in parishes around the world to raise awareness of the crisis of poverty and to promote a consciousness of God in our daily lives. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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JANUARY 23, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 12

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope expresses hope for Gaza truce, resumption of dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped a fragile cease-fire in the Gaza Strip would be the first step toward serious negotiations for a lasting peace in the Holy Land.

The pope made the remarks at his noon blessing at the Vatican Jan. 18. The same day, the Palestinian militant organization Hamas said it would stop rocket attacks so that Israel could withdraw its troops from Gaza after a deadly three-week offensive.

The pope offered prayers for "the hundreds of children, elderly and women, the innocent victims of unheard-of violence, the wounded, those mourning their loved ones and who have lost their possessions."

At least 1,300 Palestinians were killed in the offensive, many of them civilians, according to Palestinian

sources. Israel reported the deaths of 13 people, including three civilians. Thousands of buildings in Gaza were destroyed in the bombardment.

The pope asked leaders on both sides to "help their people rise up from the ruins and from terror and courageously resume the path of dialogue in justice and truth."

The Vatican announced Jan. 17 that the pope was sending a cash gift to aid relief efforts carried out by the small Catholic community in Gaza, including Blessed Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

A Vatican statement said church personnel in Gaza were serving the most vulnerable people in the Holy Land, who were "being tragically scourged by death, human pain, material damage and tears that cry out for peace."

more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. For more information, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month, beginning Feb. 9 and ending May 25, 7-9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Topics will include: a biography of Pope Benedict and fundamentals of Christianity; the church (two sessions); liturgy; Mary; interpretation of Scripture; truth, conscience and freedom; and the church and politics. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is hosting a *covered dish luncheon* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Jan. 28 (snow date Feb. 4) from 12 to 2 p.m. A program will be presented by a speaker from the Pregnancy Care Center. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. For more information, contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — Father Daniel McCaffrey, founder of Natural Family Planning Outreach, will speak at all Masses at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Feb. 7-8 as part of a marriage enrichment weekend. Father McCaffrey will provide accurate, practical, up-to-date information on natural family planning (NFP), its practice, its effectiveness, its benefits and its underlying moral principles. There also will be a presentation in the school library after all Masses. Father McCaffrey, NFP teachers and practicing couples will be available for consultation. For more information, call Meg Poppe at (336) 510-4218.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 25 (10:30 a.m.)
Vietnamese New Year Mass
St. Joseph Church, Charlotte

Jan. 27 (10 a.m.)
Catholic Schools Week Mass
Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro

Jan. 29 (11 a.m.)
Groundbreaking for Curlin Commons
Mooreville

Jan. 30 (9 a.m.)
Catholic Schools Week Mass
Sacred Heart School, Salisbury

Vatican cardinal hopes Italian Jews return to dialogue day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official said it was "a worrisome sign" that Italian Jewish leaders opted out of the annual Day of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue over the wording of a Good Friday prayer.

"We hope they will return to a serious dialogue," Cardinal Walter Kasper told Vatican Radio Jan. 17. The cardinal heads the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"They are protesting against a so-called 'superiority' of Christians, but I have to say the word 'superiority' is not part of our terminology. We say the Old Testament, which we have in common, is fulfilled by the New Testament and by Jesus Christ — but this is a position we have always had," the cardinal said.

In November, members of the Italian Rabbinical Assembly said they would not co-sponsor the annual Day of Catholic-Jewish Dialogue. The rabbinical assembly and the Italian bishops' conference have together sponsored the Jan. 17 dialogue day since 1990.

The Jewish leaders objected to a Good Friday prayer revised by Pope Benedict XVI for use only at services following the 1962 Roman Missal. The

revised prayer says: "Let us pray for the Jews. May the Lord our God enlighten their hearts so that they may acknowledge Jesus Christ, the savior of all men."

The second line of the prayer reads: "Almighty and everlasting God, you who want all men to be saved and to reach the awareness of the truth, graciously grant that, as the full number of the gentiles comes into your church, all Israel may be saved."

In early January, Rabbi Elia Enrico Richetti, the chief rabbi of Venice, wrote in a magazine article that the prayer, which seemed to call for the conversion of Jews, showed a lack of respect and was an obstacle to authentic dialogue.

In his interview with Vatican Radio, Cardinal Kasper said that, although Christians and Jews were divided on the issue of Christology, Catholics respected the beliefs of Jews. He underlined that the only place where dialogue had been interrupted was in Italy.

The cardinal also said that, while dialogue was useful, it was even more important for the two faiths to demonstrate common values in today's secularized society when it comes to issues like the family, human rights, peace and justice.

Mozart and memories



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets his brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, during a concert of Mozart music for the priest's 85th birthday in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 17. The music was performed by the Regensburg Boys' Choir, which Msgr. Ratzinger had directed for some 30 years, the Regensburg cathedral orchestra and guest soloists.

The pope reminisced about how his brother took him to Salzburg, Austria, almost 70 years ago to hear a Mozart Mass. The same Mozart composition, his Mass in C Minor, was performed in the Sistine Chapel. Pope Benedict said that although he was a 14-year-old boy when he and his brother first heard the Mozart Mass performed, "I understood that we experienced something other than a simple concert, that it was music at prayer, the divine office, in which we almost could touch something of the magnificence and beauty of God himself, and we were touched."

The thanksgiving to God expressed in the Mozart Mass "is not a superficial gratitude given lightly," the pope said, but is wholehearted and reflects Mozart's "interior struggle, his search for forgiveness, the mercy of God and, then, from these depths, his joy in God shines more brightly than ever."

RALEIGH RALLY



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners from St. Mary Church in Greensboro take part in the Raleigh Rally and March for Life Jan. 17.

Catholics take part in Raleigh March for Life

RALEIGH — Parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte took part in the Raleigh Rally and March for Life Jan. 17.

Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge participated in the march, which took pro-life advocates through the streets of Raleigh past the state capital building.

Earlier that day, Bishop Burbidge celebrated a Mass for life at St. Joseph Church in Raleigh.

In his homily, Bishop Burbidge acknowledged that some people believe the prayer services and rallies for life, such as those held in Washington, D.C., to mark the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision Jan. 22, are "a source of division and obstacles to the positive climate needed in our country."

The bishop said that view was not correct. "We can see a world in which all

of human life is revered and all persons are respected," said Bishop Burbidge, "a world in which there are no abortions, no euthanasia, no assisted suicide, no deep freezing of embryos as though they were merchandise, no destruction of human life in the name of science, no death penalty and no unjust treatment of the immigrant or of any other person."

Bishop Burbidge said there is reason to be filled with hope, noting the recent statistics that indicate more Americans are becoming pro-life.

"As faithful citizens and disciples of Christ, we rally for life, we pray for life and we march for life," he said.

Bishop Burbidge and Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis participated in the Washington March for Life. Look for coverage in the next edition of The Catholic News & Herald.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro are pictured at the Raleigh Rally and March for Life Jan. 17.

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Innocents lost



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

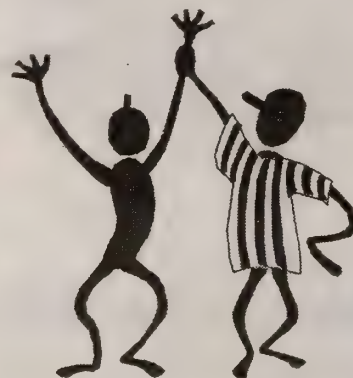
Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey and Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and others listen as Susan Cameron reads a prayer during a prayer service at the Tomb of the Holy Innocents in the abbey cemetery Jan. 18. The prayer service and a memorial Mass were held for unborn children lost to abortion.

Afterward, a reception was held that included a presentation about Room at the Inn in Charlotte, a Catholic maternity home that is building a facility on the Belmont Abbey College campus.



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Pro-life advocates take part in Charlotte March for Life

MARCH, from page 1

with a great turnout," said Tina Witt, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte who organized the march.

Participants gathered in the parking lot of the diocesan Pastoral Center on South Church Street. From there, they marched down Tryon Street, distributing rosaries and pro-life reading materials to passersby along the way.

"It is something that we need to do as people who are pro-life," said Seth Dobson, chairman of Charlotte Right to Life.

"It keeps the issue out there and emphasizes the importance of building a culture of life in our state," he said.

The march stopped for a brief rally at the corner of Trade and Tryon streets, which featured an address from Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

"Almost 50 million American babies have died in the wombs of their mothers" since abortion was legalized in the United States in 1973, said Father Reid.

"We do not have to put up with abortion," he said. "Today we are a visible witness to our hope and our convictions."

"We are never without hope because our trust is in God," he added.

Following Father Reid's address, a brief talk was given by a representative from Silent No More, a national campaign devoted to exposing and healing the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion.

And to conclude the rally, approximately 15 children huddled around a microphone to chant Ave Maria in front of the crowd.

From the rally at the square, marchers proceeded through uptown Charlotte to the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building on Trade Street, which houses the courthouse.

"All of us here today are going to be signs of hope to our society," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis who joined the marchers in praying the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Marchers carrying pro-life placards cross over the John Belk Freeway in Charlotte as part of the annual Charlotte March for Life Jan. 16.

"Today we are a visible witness to our hope and our conviction."

— Father Timothy Reid

front of the courthouse.

"We are sending a hopeful message of life and love," the bishop said.

"There is a better choice" than abortion, he said. "That is love; that is life."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Pro-life advocates stand outside the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building as part of the annual Charlotte March for Life Jan. 16.

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FROM THE COVER

U.S.-Vatican relations mark silvery anniversary

EMBASSY, from page 1

the dinner when she read from an 1865 letter that described Rome as the perfect listening post.

At that time, the secretary of the U.S. legation to the Papal States wrote to his superiors in Washington and asked for a bigger budget so he could give "small but frequent entertainments" to other diplomats and the Monsignors heading Vatican departments.

"European diplomacy is carried on by dinners and parties — you gather information this way to be obtained in no other manner," he wrote.

A glance around the embassy's banquet tables found clerical and diplomatic guests nodding in assent.

But if the idea of having a full-time ambassador stationed at the Vatican seems like a no-brainer, that hasn't always been the case.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan's decision to move from an on-again, off-again "personal envoy" to full-fledged diplomatic relations was controversial, to say the least.

Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Protestant organizations criticized the move. Complaints came from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and even the National Council of Churches.

The late Rev. Jerry Falwell, who headed the Moral Majority movement, reacted by asking how long it would be before a similar request came from Mecca, the chief holy city of Islam.

And of course, lawsuits were filed, although they were eventually dismissed.

Natural allies

The traditional argument against U.S.-Vatican relations was that the Vatican — technically, the "Holy See" — was first and foremost a church, not a state, and should not be privileged by a diplomatic presence.

President Franklin Roosevelt appointed the first envoy to the Vatican just before World War II. But when President Harry Truman tried to appoint a successor in 1951, he was met with a storm of protest, and the post went vacant for nearly 20 years.

Reagan's decision to elevate the position to ambassador was considered a courageous one that might cost him politically.

It wasn't long before most of the criticism faded. One big reason was that under Pope John Paul II, who was a strong critic of East European communism, U.S. and Vatican interests were seen to coincide.

It wasn't just a matter of moral support, but information-sharing as well.

At one crucial moment in history, a few hours after a papal meeting with

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, the Vatican told the United States in a confidential assessment that Gorbachev could be trusted as a genuine reformer.

The late pope's high profile as a defender of human rights and human dignity, along with his frequent trips to the United States, also made the Vatican seem more like a natural ally and less like a foreign planet.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Vatican's qualified support for a U.S. military response in Afghanistan had embassy employees handing out pins with the U.S. and Vatican flags.

Today, the United States has one of the biggest and most active embassies to the Holy See and has launched cooperative projects with the Vatican in areas like human trafficking and religious freedom.

Occasional clashes

There have been rough spots, too, most of them in the international arena.

As he attended Christmas midnight Mass in 1989, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Melady was called out of St. Peter's Basilica by his aides and told that Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega had escaped U.S. troops and taken refuge in the Vatican's nunciature in Panama City.

Melady then passed a handwritten note during the liturgy to Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state, opening a delicate round of negotiations that lasted 10 days and ended in Noriega's surrender.

The administration of President Bill Clinton clashed with the Vatican over international policies on population control and abortion — a rift that U.S. Ambassador Raymond Flynn, a Catholic, was unable to mend.

The launchings of the two Iraqi wars, in 1991 and in 2003, were probably the toughest trials for U.S.-Vatican diplomacy.

Pope John Paul was strongly against military intervention in both cases; in 2003, he sent a personal envoy, Cardinal Pio Laghi, to try to convince President George W. Bush to avoid war.

Cardinal Laghi met with Bush but felt the president had already made up his mind to invade Iraq. The cardinal was strongly critical of the U.S. decision to go to war and made no bones about saying so in later years.

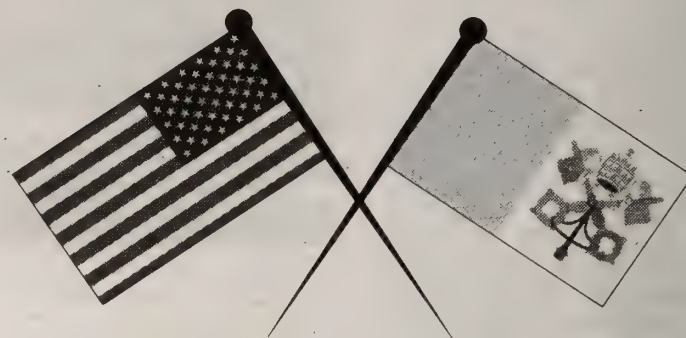
Yet Cardinal Laghi, who had been the first apostolic nuncio to the United States in the 1980s, considered himself a great friend of the United States. In some ways he was a symbol of the good times and hard times in U.S.-Vatican relations.

Cardinal Laghi died at age 86 Jan. 10 — at almost the precise moment when, 25 years earlier, the United States and the Vatican announced the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Before the start of the U.S. Embassy dinner marking the silver anniversary, participants marked his passing with a moment of silent prayer.

U.S. Ambassadors to the Vatican

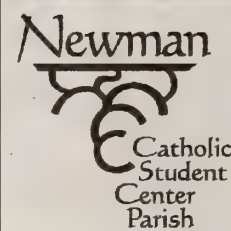
AMBASSADOR	YEARS SERVED	UNDER U.S. PRESIDENT
Mary Ann Glendon	2008-2009	George W. Bush
Francis Rooney	2005-2008	George W. Bush
Jim Nicholson	2001-2005	George W. Bush
Corinne "Lindy" Boggs	1997-2001	Bill Clinton
Raymond Flynn	1993-1997	Bill Clinton
Thomas Patrick Melady	1989-1993	George H.W. Bush
Frank Shakespeare	1986-1989	Ronald Reagan
William Wilson	1984-1986	Ronald Reagan



Source: Catholic News Service

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A new door opening

Tuskegee airman comes to Washington to witness historic inauguration

BY RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Among the millions who braved the cold to watch as President Barack Obama made history by becoming this nation's first African-American president was a Catholic deacon who made history himself some 60 years ago.

Deacon Walt Richardson, who will turn 80 in February, was a special guest at the new president's inauguration because he was one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

"I think of the awesome responsibility he is accepting," Deacon Richardson said of the new president.

"I feel a sense of pride for our country and for him. What brings joy to me is the opportunity to live this moment, to see the inauguration of this president," he said.

Deacon Richardson — a friend of Washington Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley who knew the prelate when he was a priest at St. Mary Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. — traveled to Washington for the inauguration along with Helen, his wife of 56 years.

Richardson's daughter, Donna Richardson, is a parishioner and cantor at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Richardson has sung with his daughter at Mass when visiting Charlotte.

Distinguished service

The Tuskegee Airmen were African-

American men who joined the service during World War II, a time of racial segregation in society and the military. The men had to fight discrimination in order to fight for their country.

The aviation cadets were trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama in a variety of disciplines, including single- and twin-engine aviation, navigation, meteorology, operational intelligence, medicine, aircraft mechanics, radio repair, parachute rigging, and other jobs required by the squadron.

Members of the group fought with distinction during the war, but faced discrimination when they returned home.

Deacon Richardson served with the Tuskegee Airmen not as an aviator or mechanic, but as an entertainer.

"I was part of 'Operation Happiness,'" Deacon Richardson said. "I was a singer, and we were the first all-military troupe to entertain at Air Force bases."

After a year with the Tuskegee Airmen, Deacon Richardson was transferred to an all-white unit. There, he said, he faced racism and had to "readjust in order to fit in."

He said that with the Tuskegee Airmen he did not have to worry about matters such as which water fountain he was allowed to drink from.

Deacon Richardson, who joined the Catholic Church in 1957, recalled encountering racism during a 1958 trip he made cross-country when he was transferred from Eglin Air Base in Florida to Okinawa, Japan. As he was driving to



COURTESY PHOTO

Deacon Walter Richardson is pictured in this photo used on the cover of his book, "How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-era Success Story." Deacon Richardson was a special guest at Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration because he was one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

the West Coast for deployment, he had trouble finding motels and hotels that would accept black customers.

"My first reaction was to turn to my faith. Whenever I came to a town (to spend the night), I stopped at a Catholic church to ask the priest to recommend a place to stay that would accept my family and me," he said. "The priests would always find me a place."

He said he also had trouble finding places to eat.

"If I noticed there was no back door, I would go in through the front door by myself," he recalled. "If I was not challenged, then I knew I could bring my family in. This is what I went through even though I was a technical sergeant in the Air Force."

Despite the hardships the squadron faced, the history it made and the

victories it won, Deacon Richardson said the members were first and foremost dedicated to serving their country.

"We took care of business and did the job we had to do," he said.

During his 40 years with the Air Force, Deacon Richardson served for a time in Vietnam. While stationed at the Dover (Del.) Air Force Base, he became the first African-American to be promoted to master sergeant in the field maintenance squadron.

Enduring faith

Deacon Richardson has served as a permanent deacon for 29 years. He and his wife have eight children and nine grandchildren.

He recently finished a book about his life story entitled "How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-era Success Story."

He saw attending the inauguration of Obama as "another door that has been opened, and I am ready for it."

"I never thought I would see this day. I never ever dreamed I would live to see this day, even though I had hopes," Deacon Richardson said.

His teachers always told him and his classmates if they studied hard, worked hard, were good and served the Lord "we could grow up to be president of the United States," he said.

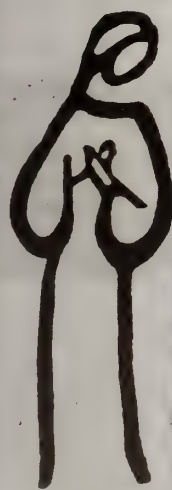
"That is what we heard, but we let it roll off our shoulders, because we really didn't believe it," he said.

Seeing the first African-American president, Deacon Richardson said, has deepened "my commitment to God and to others."

"God is great enough, and if we trust in him, he will take care of the rest," he said.

"We're still struggling to prove our identity, and in due time God will prove the opportunities. I don't know how long God is going to leave me here, but I intend to make a difference," he said.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.



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Catholic colleges, parishes host guests attending inauguration, balls

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The campus of Trinity Washington University has been the site of much activity.

For four days, the Catholic campus hosted more than 400 members of the National Guard who were part of the security and crowd management personnel for the inaugural events.

The university also hosted Jan. 19-21 more than 60 students from Spelman College in Atlanta who attended the inauguration of Barack Obama Jan. 20.

The Spelman students planned to join Trinity students in a campus inaugural gala, "A Celebration of Change," on Trinity's campus the same day.

The Catholic University of America, down the street from Trinity, hosted an inaugural ball Jan. 16.

At least two Catholic parishes in the Washington area also hosted inaugural balls — Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Washington and St. Margaret Church in Seat Pleasant, Md.

Approximately 400 people planned

to celebrate the new president taking office at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's ball.

"This will be the beginning of an incredible chapter in the annals of our American history," said Josephite Father William Norvel, pastor. "All of us are now called to wrap President (Barack) Obama and his administration in prayer that the work the Lord has begun in him will be brought to perfection."

The priest said knee trouble prevented him from attending the inauguration in person but he planned to watch "every minute of it" on television.

Like other members of his parish, he had family members in town for the inauguration. He said there was "tremendous excitement" in the air.

"We're overjoyed an African-American is taking a position of top leadership," he said, noting that many parishioners wanted to attend the inauguration to "be part of the celebration" and they wanted their children there to "experience the joy."

Cardinal urges Obama not to reverse policies protecting unborn

PRESIDENT, from page 1

life-related matters, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told him in a new letter.

Such actions "could introduce significant negative and divisive factors into our national life, at a time when we need to come together to address the serious challenges facing our people," said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago in a letter dated Jan. 16 and made public Jan. 19.

The letter came less than a week after Cardinal George sent another letter to Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden and each member of Congress outlining the bishops' broad policy agenda as the new administration and Congress begin their work.

"I expect that some want you to take executive action soon to reverse current policies against government-sponsored destruction of unborn human life," Cardinal George said.

"I urge you to consider that this could be a terrible mistake — morally, politically and in terms of advancing the solidarity and well-being of our nation's people," he said.

Specifically, the USCCB president mentioned the recently issued Department of Health and Human Services regulation protecting the conscience rights of health care providers and institutions; the so-called Mexico City policy barring the use of U.S. family planning funds to promote or perform abortions in developing nations; and current embryonic stem-cell policy prohibiting federal funding of research involving embryonic stem-cell lines created after 2001.

Cardinal George said he hoped the new president would "consider these comments in the spirit in which they are intended, as an invitation to set aside political pressures and ideologies and focus on the priorities and challenges that will unite us as a nation."

"Again I want to express our hopes for your administration, and our offer to cooperate in advancing the common good and protecting the poor and vulnerable in these challenging times," he added.

The cardinal noted that during his campaign Obama "spoke often about a need to reduce abortions" and had said he had no definite answer when asked at

what point a baby has human rights.

"I think your remarks provide a basis for common ground," Cardinal George said.

"Uncertainty as to when human rights begin provides no basis for compelling others to violate their conviction that these rights exist from the beginning. After all, those people may be right," he said.

"And if the goal is to reduce abortions, that will not be achieved by involving the government in expanding and promoting abortions," he added.

Commenting specifically on the HHS conscience guarantees, Cardinal George said the regulation was "a long-overdue measure for implementing three statutes enacted by Congress over the last 35 years."

"An administration committed to faithfully implementing and enforcing the laws of the United States will want to retain this common-sense regulation, which explicitly protects the rights of health professionals who favor or oppose abortion to serve the basic health needs of their communities," he said.

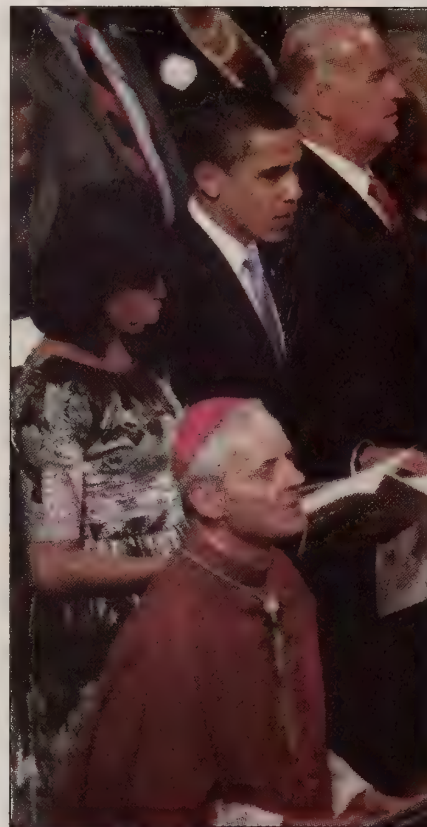
"Suggestions that government involvement in health care will be aimed at denying conscience, or excluding Catholic and other health care providers from participation in serving the public good, could threaten much-needed health care reform at the outset," the cardinal added.

He said the Mexico City policy, first implemented in 1984, "has wrongly been attacked as a restriction on foreign aid for family planning" but instead ensures that family planning funds "are not diverted to organizations dedicated to performing and promoting abortions instead of reducing them."

"Once the clear line between family planning and abortion is erased, the idea of using family planning to reduce abortions becomes meaningless, and abortion tends to replace contraception as the means for reducing family size," said the cardinal's letter to Obama.

On embryonic stem-cell research, Cardinal George said "recent startling advances in reprogramming adult cells," along with progress in research using adult and cord-blood stem cells, make any change in current policy "especially pointless."

"To divert scarce funds away from these promising avenues for research and treatment toward the avenue that is most morally controversial as well as most medically speculative would be a sad victory of politics over science," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama, his wife, Michelle, and Vice President Joseph Biden attend the presidential inaugural prayer service at the National Cathedral in Washington Jan. 21. In the foreground is Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

Pope Benedict XVI congratulates Obama

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI, congratulating Barack Obama on his inauguration as U.S. president, prayed that he would remain steadfast in his dedication to promote understanding, cooperation and peace in the world.

The pope, in a Jan. 20 telegram, told Obama that he prayed God would "grant you unfailing wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high responsibilities."

Pope Benedict said he prayed, under the new president's leadership, that "the American people continue to find in their impressive religious and political heritage the spiritual values and ethical principles needed to cooperate in the building of a truly just and free society."

The pope said he hoped the future of the United States would be "marked by respect for the dignity, equality and rights of each of its members, especially the poor, the outcast and those who have no voice."

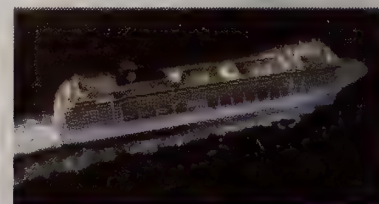
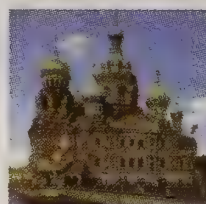
"At a time when so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world yearn for liberation from the scourge of poverty, hunger and violence, I pray that you will be confirmed in your resolve to promote understanding, cooperation and peace among the nations, so that all may share in the banquet of life which God wills to set for the whole human family."

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CNS PHOTO BY BRIAN SNYDER, REUTERS

President-elect Barack Obama walks out to take the Oath of Office as the 44th president of the United States in Washington Jan. 20.

Nation's religious heritage 'a strength,' says Obama

OBAMA, from page 1

and Hindus — and nonbelievers,” Obama said. “We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth.”

“And because we have tasted the bitter swill of Civil War and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace,” he continued.

Obama acknowledged the challenges facing the country throughout his 2,400-word address, delivered before a throng at the Capitol and stretching forth on the National Mall. It was believed to be the largest single gathering of people in Washington history.

“Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new,” Obama said. “But those values upon which our success depends — hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history.”

So “what is demanded,” the new president said, “is a return to these truths.”

“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world,” he said.

These are duties “we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship,” he said.

“This is the source of our confidence — the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny,” he said.

Bold, swift action

Regarding the economy, Obama said the situation “calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.”

“We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together,” he continued. “We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost.”

“We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do,” he said.

“God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.”

— President Barack Obama

Obama said that “there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans.”

But “their memories are short,” he said. “For they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.”

The crowds in downtown Washington cheered shortly after noon when people realized Obama had been inaugurated. People waved flags, started shouting “Obama! Obama!” and whistled as news filtered down Pennsylvania Avenue that the former senator of Illinois was now president.

Prayerful guidance

Before the inauguration ceremony, Obama and then-Vice President-elect Joseph Biden Jr. and their wives took part in a morning prayer service at St. John’s Episcopal Church, across from the White House.

The sermon at the private service was delivered by Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter’s House megachurch in Dallas and more recently a writer and producer of films.

Obama and Biden then went to the White House for a coffee with their predecessors, President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney.

The day before, both Obama and Biden joined volunteers in various service projects on the national observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday, which was designated as a national day of service.

Biden worshipped and received Communion Jan. 18 at Holy Trinity Church in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington. His granddaughter had received her first Communion at the same church in 2008.

Jesuit Father Larry Madden’s homily, according to The Associated Press, focused on God as a constant anchor and the promise of hope and change for those who believe. The assembly was asked to pray for “wisdom and integrity” to guide the new president and his administration.

Holy Trinity is the same church where President John F. Kennedy worshipped while in Washington, including a morning Mass Jan. 20, 1961, before his own swearing-in.

Contributing to this story was Dennis Sadowski.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Authors explore why 'doing the right thing' can be so hard

REVIEWED BY ELIZABETH
RACKOVER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Why does God ask certain things of his sons and daughters?

According to Father Thomas D. Williams in his book "Knowing Right From Wrong," "God did not sit down one day to invent the Ten Commandments to make our lives difficult. God does not command honesty, justice, temperance and religion because he feels like it, but because they are truly good for us."

Father Williams, a member of the Legionaries of Christ, delves into the many facets of human nature, exploring the almost infinite variety of reasons why choosing to "do the wrong thing" is so tempting.

Though the subject is lofty, Father Williams grasps each rung of the ladder carefully and surely.

In a chapter titled "That Still, Small Voice," he takes on the immutability of right and wrong. There are, he says, things such as fixed standards:

"We have the power to choose right or wrong — but we do not have the power to declare what is right or wrong and have it be so. ... Certain things are the way they are despite our opinions or personal wishes, and this is true in our moral lives as well."

He ventures into seriously Orwellian territory when he defines true freedom (it requires the government of reason and will; it requires constraints; it needs limitations) but then offers us this compelling visual: The conscience acts as an embankment of sorts, channeling our freedoms in healthy moderation.

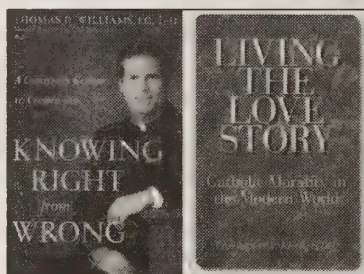
Father Williams makes the case, now and again, that fun too often has a negative connotation. He risks losing his audience when he equates "just having fun" with rock 'n' roll silliness (Cyndi Lauper, Billy Joel) and risks making virtue seem as wan a thing as the devil would like you to think it.

Though he risks preaching to the choir, Father Williams doesn't try to make a case that because of the state of today's world we need a moral guidebook. He speaks in terms of humanity's ageless quest for good and battle with selfishness.

In his "Living the Love Story," Christopher P. Klofft takes the view that to live and love morally in modern society one must see how modern society has created the "perfect storm" of ills.

He writes as though the problems of 21st-century morality (i.e., the lack thereof) have created rather than fueled our present-day miseries.

Never mind that morality in the Old Testament had its mountainous pitfalls (Sodom and Gomorrah, unmarried lovers Samson and Delilah, murder and adultery starring David and Bathsheba).



Never mind that the Catholic Church itself is riddled with glaring immoralities (without even venturing into the 20th century and beyond).

Serious issues of homosexuality, contraception and abortion have been around for thousands of years. Because they were underground in the "old days," they just didn't have to be discussed in polite company.

Now that they are, here is his guide to morality.

In dealing with morality as a modern problem, Klofft misses the larger issue of mankind's struggle with right and wrong as far back as Jacob's arrangement with Leah, Ruth and a handmaid or two.

Perhaps they could have used a guidebook.

In the chapter "Men Are From Muck and Women Are From Ribs," he writes, "Even within marriage, it seems that men and women can hardly get along today. Why is this?"

For anyone who thinks that's a recent development, I guess they should read Klofft's book. For the rest of us, Father Williams' book has far more to offer.

Rackover, a writer and publicist, lives with her family in Rochester Hills, Mich., and teaches catechism at St. Irenaeus Church.



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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 1, 2009

Feb. 1, Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

God's love for us is rich in Scripture

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My mom and dad, like many other parents, tried during my childhood to teach me the wisdom of doing certain things: eating my vegetables, putting money aside in savings, getting enough sleep, caring for my belongings, etc.

The repetition of their instructions usually had limited effect, for even as I paid lip service to them most of the time, I obeyed because they held a position of authority, not because I recognized the truth in their admonitions.

As I became more mature and less stubborn, I received those same nuggets of parental advice more enthusiastically — but mostly from the mouths of other people with whom I didn't share the parent-child relationship.

This Sunday's passage from Deuteronomy follows several chapters' worth of seemingly endless statutes

and commandments covering a variety of situations: a collection of Yahweh's "parental advice" to his people.

While each of these directives conveys a truth helpful for living faithfully in community, it's easy to see how this same people, generations removed from a relational encounter with the living God at Mount Horeb, might have "hardened their hearts" as well as their ears, rendering them unmoved by God's message.

When Jesus taught in the synagogue, he repeated many of the words that his ancestors had heard, but something about the way he communicated them — "a new teaching with authority" — not only drove out unclean spirits but jarred his hearers from their complacency and opened them anew to the healing, yet challenging presence of the living God in their midst.

In Jesus, God not only raised up the promised prophet "from among your own kin" and brought a fresh voice to the ancient truths, he himself became living Word among us.

For many Christians today, the Scriptures are widely accessible through the printed page and repeated liturgical proclamation — a privilege so familiar and taken for granted that we become impervious to their transforming power.

By inviting Jesus, the living Word of God, into our hearing and reading of Scripture, we not only open ourselves to receive God's words anew in all their richness, but we move beyond lip service to the loving relationship that God longs to have with each of us.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 25-31

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20; **Monday** (Sts. Timothy and Titus), 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday** (St. Angela Merici), Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday** (St. Thomas Aquinas), Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday**, Hebrews 10:19-25, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday**, Hebrews 10:32-39, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday** (St. John Bosco), Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Mark 4:35-41.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 1-7

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28; **Monday** (The Presentation of the Lord), Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Tuesday** (St. Blaise), Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday** (St. Agatha), Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday** (Paul Miki and Companions), Hebrews 13:1-8, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday**, Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.

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A life of faith and integrity

Catholic actor Montalban dies at 88; was voice for faith in career

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Catholic actor Ricardo Montalban, whose work in television and movies also included several Catholic projects, died Jan. 14 at age 88 at his home in Los Angeles.

He had been suffering from congestive heart failure.

A family representative told the news media his funeral would be private.

The Mexican-born Montalban — best known for his role as Mr. Roarke on TV's "Fantasy Island," which ran for six seasons, and for his commercials for the Chrysler Cordoba with its "soft Corinthian leather" and "crushed velour" — always credited his faith for helping him in Hollywood.

Montalban won several awards for his contributions to the entertainment industry and the Catholic faith.

He also won an Emmy for the 1978 TV movie "How the West Was Won."

His film career encompassed dozens of films dating to 1948's "On an Island With You" and 1949's "Neptune's Daughter," in which he was paired with Esther Williams.

Montalban also was featured in "Across the Wide Missouri" (1951), "Cheyenne Autumn" (1964), "The

Singing Nun" (1966), "Sweet Charity" (1969) and "Star Trek 2: The Wrath of Khan" (1982), as well as movies in the "Planet of the Apes," "Cannonball Run" and "Naked Gun" series.

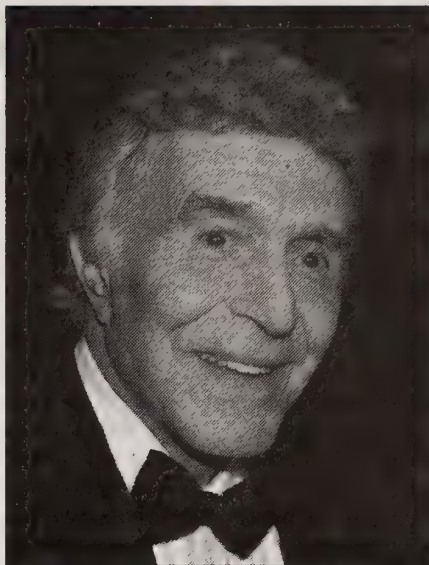
Offstage, Montalban founded an organization called Nosotros in 1970 to help improve the image of Spanish-speaking people and to increase employment for Hispanics on both sides of the camera.

Montalban was made a Knight Commander of St. Gregory the Great in 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

He won the lifetime achievement award in 2003 from Catholics in Media Associates, saying it was "my tenacity and faith that has seen me through my many years in entertainment."

The year before, Montalban was given the first Spirit of Angelus Award by Family Theater Productions "for a body of work of surpassing quality complemented by a faith lived with integrity and generosity."

At the ceremony, Montalban said his Catholic faith had been and was the most important thing in his life, followed closely by his marriage to his wife of 50 years, his family and his two countries



CNS PHOTO BY FRED PROUSER, REUTERS

Catholic actor Ricardo Montalban is pictured in Beverly Hills, Calif., in this Oct. 2, 1997, file photo. Montalban, whose work in television and movies also included several Catholic projects, died Jan. 14 at age 88 at his home in Los Angeles.

— Mexico and the United States.

He also encouraged young filmmakers at the awards ceremony to find freedom through discipline and doing what is right.

"Ricardo was a longtime friend and supporter of Family Theater Productions and a gracious and generous man who shared his gifts and talents in many ways," said Holy Cross Father

Montalban was
"a gracious and
generous man"

— Holy Cross Father
Willy Raymond

Willy Raymond, Family Theater's national director.

"He has supported our work ... for more than 60 years through our radio programs and our Angelus Student Film Festival," he said in a Jan. 14 statement.

Montalban got involved with Family Theater shortly after he met its founder, Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton. One of the actor's first projects was a radio program, "Blue Memorandum," in which he starred with Lionel Barrymore.

Montalban won the Personal Achievement Award in 2000 from the Gabriel Awards' sponsors, Unda-USA, now known as Signis.

The award is presented each year to an individual whose career has provided outstanding leadership to the broadcast and entertainment community in furthering the Gabriel Awards' ideals of uplifting and supporting the human spirit and dignity.

In 1998, Montalban was among those who received papal honors at a Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He used a walker during the Mass and visibly suffered from an old spinal-cord operation.

But despite his pain he beamed at reporters after the Mass, saying, "I'm in seventh heaven."

A group of Catholic media industry leaders feted Montalban in 1988 with its Crux Mea Stella (The Cross Is My Star) award.

Even before he achieved popularity in Hollywood, Montalban was a working actor in New York. The book "The Story of St. Malachy's — The Actors' Chapel: A Church on Broadway" included Montalban among the many high-profile Catholics who attended the parish's 4 a.m. Sunday Mass after all of Manhattan's nightspots had closed.

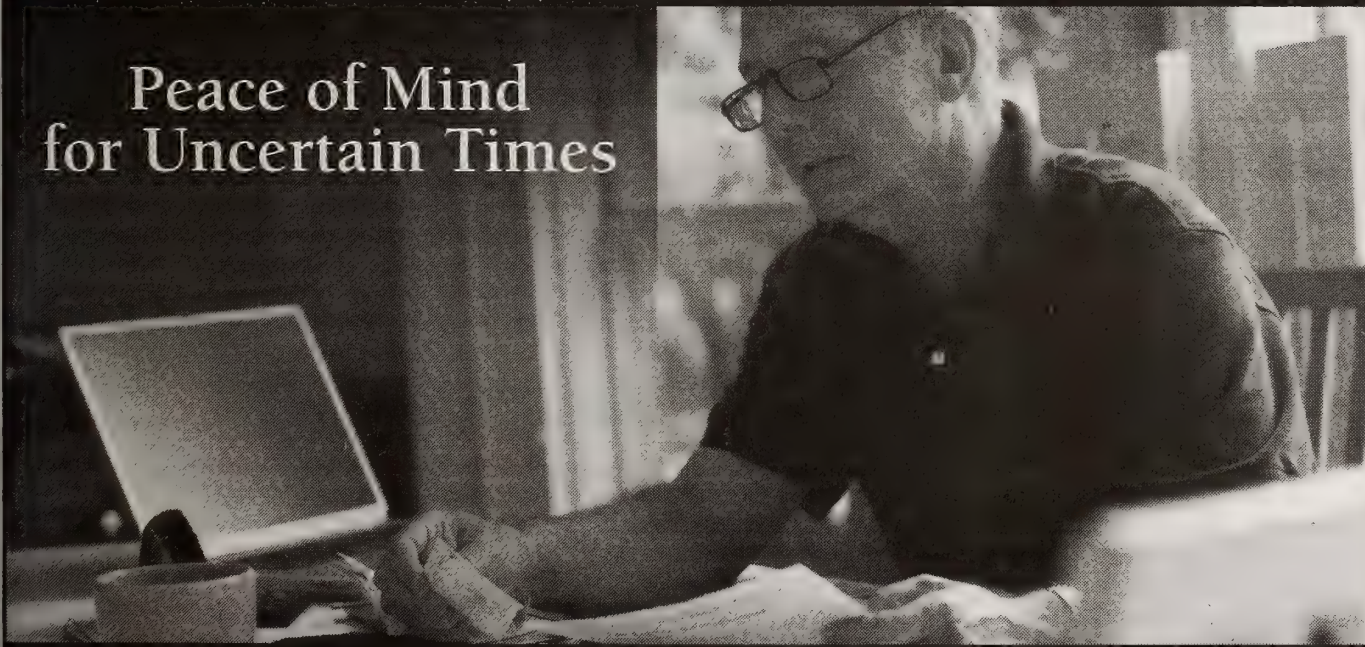
And, before staking his claim to U.S. fame, Montalban had appeared in 50 movies in Mexico.

Some of the Catholic-oriented productions in which Montalban participated included "Voz Latina: Radio for the Latin Explosion," produced by Family Theater in the mid-2000s; the 1988 Catholic Communication Campaign program "Beyond the Dream: Immigrants in America," which originally aired on NBC; and the 2001 CCC-funded documentary "The Face: Jesus in Art," which is a perennial on PBS stations nationwide.

He also hosted the docudrama "Fatima," which presented a history of events in Portugal at the time of the Marian apparitions at Fatima.

Montalban was married to Georgiana Young, sister of actress Loretta Young, from 1944 until her death in 2007. He is survived by their four children and six grandchildren.

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Right on about radon



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem hold their awards for their winning entries in the 2008 North Carolina Radon Poster Contest held in Raleigh Dec. 4, 2008. Pictured (from left) are Domenico Coppola, honorable mention; Gwen Gies, honorable mention; Melina Pappas, second place; and Miriam Martincova, honorable mention.

Each state participates in the national poster contest, sponsored by the National Safety Council and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for children ages 9-14 to generate interest, enthusiasm and action about radon and to increase the number of homes tested for radon, a colorless, odorless radioactive gas found in all 50 states.

Melina's poster moved on to compete in the national contest. Winners will be honored at the council's 2009 National Radon Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C., Jan. 28.

Buzzing about geography



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are sixth-grader Jack Ruch and fourth-grader Elle Verchick, students of St. Pius X School in Greensboro and the first- and second-place winners, respectively, of the school National Geographic Bee Jan. 16. Fourth- through eighth-grades participated in the annual competition. Thousands of U.S. schools participate each year in the bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society and designed to spark student interest in and increase public awareness about geography. Jack will take a written test to qualify for the semi-finals to be held in Raleigh in February. Elle will serve as an alternate.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Attitude of gratitude

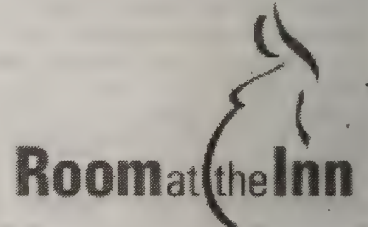
Renee Dixon, marketing director for Chick-fil-A, is pictured with Marie Lawson and Jeannie Eagan, fourth-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, Dec. 16, 2008. Dixon presented the students with prize bags for their winning essays on "Generosity," part of Chick-fil-A's "Core Essentials" school program.

All fourth-graders at Our Lady of Grace School participated in the writing contest and each received a free ice cream coupon, redeemable at the local restaurant where the winning essays will be displayed.

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IN THE NEWS

'The strongest card we have'

Faith rituals help students in crisis, priest tells campus ministers

BY ANDREW NELSON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA — As the second anniversary of the largest mass killing on a U.S. campus approaches, the Catholic priest serving at Virginia Tech University said the church can help fearful and confused students through its mindfulness of community rituals.

The church view of the "intimacy of God with the world" is a strong perspective during times of crisis, Father John Grace said. "It is probably the strongest card we have."

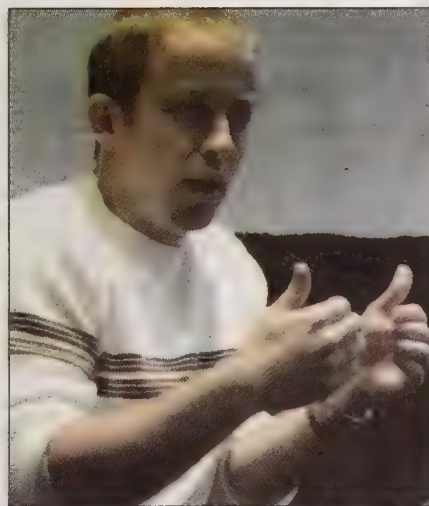
More than 30 members of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry, meeting in Atlanta Jan. 5-6, discussed how to support a faith community when students

at a university are reeling from a crisis.

Father Grace, a priest of the Diocese of Richmond, Va., and graduate student Jeff Yacup talked about the Virginia Tech shootings that took the lives of 32 students and faculty members on April 16, 2007; the shooter, a student, then took his own life.

The priest wore his burgundy Virginia Tech polo shirt and Yacup had a "We are all Hokies" wristband, an expression of solidarity that linked Virginia Tech and all those hurting for them worldwide.

When the shootings occurred, Father Grace, not yet assigned to the campus, had just ended a 16-year stint as a Catholic chaplain at another university in Virginia. Watching the reports on the day of the shooting, he wanted to serve where



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Virginia Tech graduate student Jeff Yacup talks about his experience as a student during the days and weeks following the 2007 shootings at his school. He spoke Jan. 8 at the Catholic Campus Ministry Association convention in Atlanta.

he was needed.

That July, he began to work with

the Catholic university community at Virginia Tech. He described the early days as an emotional roller coaster for students, from troubled memories one minute to run-of-the-mill college problems the next.

In his first days there, Catholic students took him on a "spiritual walk" around the campus, showing him the shrines to the victims and Norris Hall, where most of the killings took place, while telling him their stories.

"It broke your heart, that shrine of death and violence," he said.

Father Grace said many are surprised the university had its largest class of first-year students the fall after the shootings.

Parents focused on safety concerns, he said. But young people focused on the student unity displayed at the televised memorial services.

"They saw a huge community in a group hug," he said.

For Yacup, the murders are a part of his life and his faith experience, but not all of it.

"It does sting every now and then. It is part of me as long as I don't let it govern who I am," he said.

The meeting for diocesan directors was followed by the 40th anniversary convention of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association Jan. 6-9. Its theme was "Jesus in a New Generation" as workshops covered topics from "Christ Came to Heal," focused on mentally ill students, to "What's Faith Got to Do With It," which was about the environment.

At the convention, speakers urged the nearly 300 participants to be where their students are, in order to engage them with the challenges of Jesus.

Holy Cross Father Peter Walsh said a Web presence is almost mandatory, whether by having a Web page or being on the popular social networking site Facebook.

"It is kind of like having the church in the public square. Their (students) faith is represented on the large public square," said Father Walsh. "Students are online. You should be there."

Walsh and his colleague, Kathleen Byrnes, a campus minister, work at the St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. They are linked to several hundred students through their Facebook profile.

However, Byrnes said the technology is a tool that should at times be shut off. If a student e-mails a serious question, the minister engages the student but invites him or her to have a face-to-face conversation, she said.

The campus minister also can challenge students to have a "technology fast." Byrnes said students on retreats are told to leave behind cell phones. Being unhooked from technology is unusual for them and it allows them to focus, she said.

Father Martin Moran, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., who is executive director of the Cincinnati-based Catholic Campus Ministry Association, said campus ministers serve nearly 5 million students.

Although some of today's students "don't buy into the institutional church," they are interested in the spiritual aspects of religion, said Father Moran, who for nine years was the chaplain at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

"We have to constantly invite people back to the faith," he said.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

'Life begins at conception'

Verbal precision needed in the stem-cell research debate

A short sentence in the Nov. 24 Associated Press report on the issues in the upcoming policy debate on whether or not the ban on federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research should be lifted accurately portrays the opposition argument as saying "that life begins at conception — that once fertilization occurred in the lab, so did a human being."

I subscribe to that argument, and I admire the verbal precision.

The reference, of course, is to in vitro fertilization. Whether in the womb or in the lab, when fertilization occurs, there is life. This is undeniable. A being exists that did not exist before.

Because it is human life — on its way to becoming fully human — it is, the argument goes, a human being. To assert that it is not human because it is not yet fully human is to deny the reality that a continuum of existence has begun.

This is not to say that the embryo is a human person; it may well be, but that is not the claim. The claim is simply that a being exists that is on its way to becoming fully human.

To terminate, for purposes of research, what would otherwise be an inevitable biological development to full human personhood is, the opponents say, morally wrong.

That conclusion can be drawn from human reason without the guidance of divine revelation or the rulings of organized religion. Reason sees an incipient human person and concludes that this is a life worthy of respect and protection.

Those who disagree and see no human life in this living being at the moment of conception are not to be dismissed as having no respect at all for human life and dignity.

They are, however, to be confronted on the issues of when human life begins, why any human life should not be regarded as a human being (if something exists, how can it not be?) and why a developing human being has

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



no claim on the possession of actual or potential personhood.

To rush into a verbally imprecise policy debate about embryonic vs. adult stem-cell research would be to walk mindlessly past the possibility of widespread violation of human life, rights and dignity.

This might be compared to firing a rifle shot through a closed door when there is a possibility that a person is standing there on the other side.

Whether Americans, as a nation, are ready or even willing to engage in verbally precise, reasoned argument on these questions is highly doubtful. And that speaks volumes about our honesty and humanity as a people.

The challenges to moral and political leadership in America will be enormous in the months ahead. Ethics and power will meet in the policy arena.

If America's credibility, not to mention integrity, is to be preserved, ethics and power have to listen to one another, respect one another and become locked in respectful moral argument.

New forums may have to be found to facilitate this exchange. There may be a role here for universities. The public square is always available.

But however the issues are raised and wherever they are joined — in print, the electronic media, the pulpit, the podium or legislative forum — the human hearts and human minds that shape those arguments and debate them share one thing in common:

They all possess a human life that began at the moment of conception.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Money doubt: The economy and faith

In hindsight we can see God's hand in difficult situations

I have been avoiding the topic of the economy for months because I didn't want to add to the panic so many of us feel. What if harping on our economic woes contributed to the crisis, causing us to stop buying ice cream cones for our kids, which would force the local ice cream shop to lay off a few of the high school kids who scoop and wash the floors, and so on?

But it's time to discuss the massive elephant in our living room. The anxiety of how all of this is going to turn out has me in a full nelson most of the day.

I talked recently on Gus Lloyd's "Seize the Day" radio show (Sirius/XM satellite) about the pressure of having to generate more income from my writing projects now that my architect husband has little work.

Gus and I chatted about how difficult it is to know when to pursue new work, to be an aggressive businesswoman and brainstorm about future projects. When is it time to hang up the phone and put away the computer and fold our hands?

Two hours after the radio show I headed to my son's prayer service. I told the deacon I needed to light candles for all my friends who have lost jobs or had their salaries cut in half.

He relayed more stories of in-debt real estate agents who have young kids, of graduating seniors who are home watching Oprah, of senior citizens whose retirement funds have evaporated and are now job hunting (with the Oprah watchers) at ages 65 and 70.

I wondered how many of these people are like me: a tad challenged when it comes time to say the Serenity Prayer. What is in my life that I must accept as something I cannot change? The recession and economic disaster in this country? The industries that my husband and I have chosen?

My dad always said I should have gone into sales, darn it.

Our Turn

THERESE J.
BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



What can I change? The intensity with which I pound the pavement? The extra hours I work to try to compensate for the loss? Moreover, lately I keep asking myself: What is God's will, and what is my will?

Is it my will to live in a nice three-bedroom home and send my kids to a fantastic Catholic school? Is it my will to want to go to Florida next month? Is it my will to drink Starbucks coffee?

Because, as Gus mentioned on his show, so often we look back and can clearly see God's hand in a tragedy or during a very difficult time even though at the time it was happening we were clueless and despondent.

I told the radio host about my friend Michelle, who was fired two years before her husband died. This allowed her time — the best two years of her life, she vows — to be with him as he traveled the world as an army chaplain.

But I want to understand the economic crisis or problem of the day in present tense: why it's happening, how it ends and the secret gold in there.

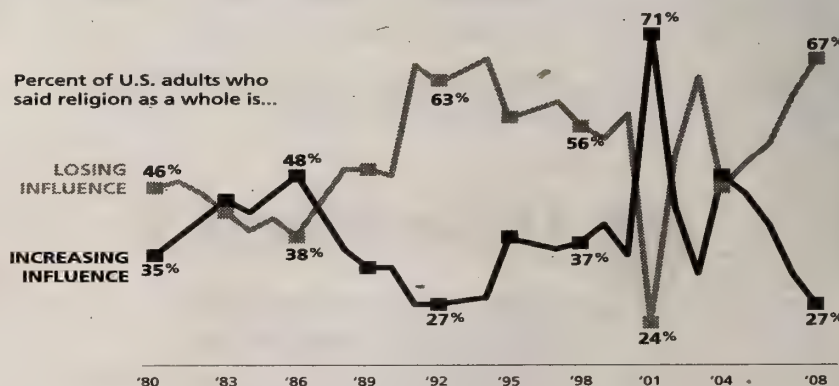
At the end of our radio segment, Gus asked me to give him my 15-second prayer for the day.

"I guess it would be this," I said: "God, please help me to keep you in charge today and not to ask so many 'whys.'"

"I like that," he replied. "I think I'll say the same."

Religion's Influence on American Life

Two-thirds of Americans think religion is losing its influence on American life. Over the years, opinions on this topic have been volatile, with changes corresponding to major political or historical events.



Results for 2008 are based on telephone interviews with 1,009 U.S. adults conducted Dec. 4-7. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.
Source: Gallup Poll

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Building a stronger America through catechesis

Both a saint and a statesman had catechesis as foundation to their lives

Never did I think I would be so delighted by Walter Isaacson's book "Benjamin Franklin: An American Life." What especially excited me was learning of Franklin's religiosity.

As a youth, he worked diligently on virtues he considered important in his life. Among them were justice, humility, chastity, silence, tranquility and order.

He would choose a particular virtue, commit to it for a period of time, and then evaluate his progress.

This practice reminded me of my seminary days when Jesuit spiritual directors would give us regular evening meditations on virtues (called points) we needed to improve.

Although Franklin was brought up in a Puritan atmosphere that emphasized redemption by faith alone, he believed it came from good works too, which reflects Catholic thinking.

As I reflected on Franklin and other American founders like John Adams, it occurred to me that their thinking and leadership were guided by deep

religious convictions.

Their religiosity further suggested that someone was responsible for its foundation — that they had been catechized.

The word "catechize" means to resound or to impress upon by word of mouth. It implies a process whereby one person teaches another his or her religious faith.

Earlier in January the church celebrated the feast of St. John Neumann. He was born in Bohemia (modern-day Czech Republic), immigrated to America, became a priest and then the bishop of Philadelphia.

He is best known for championing catechesis. Just as the parents of our early American founders catechized them, enabling them to strengthen our nation through their faith, so too Neumann catechized young Americans and laid the strong foundations of Catholicism.

Usually a country's strength is measured in terms of its armies, economy and resources. This is true to some extent,

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



but a country's greatest strength is in its high morals.

Where there is catechesis, there is morality and efforts to live a truthful life.

No one denies that many of the present economic woes of the world are due to corruption, greed and other vices. In admitting this, we are also acknowledging that many of our woes are the result of a lack of catechesis.

However, we aren't focusing on practicing particular virtues as did our forefathers, nor are we catechizing as effectively as did St. John Neumann.

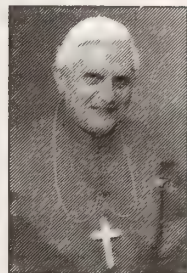
No doubt, 2009 will be remembered as the year of bailouts and restructuring. It should also be a year in which we renew efforts to restructure our catechesis.

Catechesis has been and is the heart of our nation's and church's strength.

Pope says Christians must work, pray, convert for Christian unity

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Full Christian unity will be a gift from God, but it is something Christians themselves must work for, pray for and experience personal conversion in order to receive, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Dedicating his weekly general audience Jan. 21 to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said God wants Christians to be one, but that can happen only through deeper unity with Christ. The theme of the 2009 week of prayer was "That they may become one in your hand," a quote from the Book of Ezekiel in which God tells the prophet to take two sticks, representing his divided people, and join them together.

"The hand of the prophet that puts the two sticks together becomes like the very hand of God who will gather and unite his people and, finally, all of humanity," the pope said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday we began the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, dedicated this year to the theme, "That they may become one in your hand" (Ezek 37:17).

This Scripture passage recalls God's command to Ezekiel to take two sticks, one representing Judah and the other Israel, and join them together as a symbol of the Lord's power to gather his people into one.

As Christians, we read these words as an exhortation to pray and work for the full unity of Christ's disciples. As the Second Vatican Council reminds us, "there can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart" (Unitatis Redintegratio, 7).

This week offers us an opportunity to thank God for all he has done and continues to do to bring Christians closer to one another.

I am personally grateful for the many opportunities I have had to meet with representatives of churches and ecclesial communities, both in the Vatican and during my travels abroad.

Let us pray that the various initiatives this week at the local and universal levels will encourage all who confess "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism" to listen more attentively to the word of God, to deepen prayer and to intensify dialogue, so as to imitate St. Paul's example of a life completely devoted to the Lord and the unity of his body, the church.

From parochial to international

Thinking beyond U.S. borders to sister parishes

Parish work is not just "parochial" anymore. It is international.

Over the years our parish has developed connections around the world. We have sponsored nursing students in South Africa and Romania. We dug wells in Ghana.

Each year we feed hundreds of children in Malawi through Project Peanut Butter. We sponsor the Catholic education of 10 Palestinian children in the West Bank.

Our most enduring international connections, however, are with sister parishes in Nicaragua and Mexico.

In the past, U.S. parishes often maintained connections to the home country of their parishioners. Italian or German parishes might be connected to Italy or Germany. These connections were a way of affirming their ethnic identity.

Today, however, the growing phenomenon of American parishes having international sister parish relationships is not a way of affirming our identity; it is a way of stretching it.

Sister parishes make us think beyond our borders and make us aware of people and problems we might only see on the news. They also make us really Catholic by connecting us to our brothers and sisters by bonds of faith and love.

Our parish did not set out to have

two sister parishes. It just happened by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our-sister parish in Mexico came to us through some seasonal workers from Mexico who worked for a while at a local crab-picking plant here in Maryland. Many came from the same area in the mountains of central Mexico.

We asked how we could help their church back home. At first we just sent a check. Then we made a visit. One visit became five. Checks became projects. We paid to build a chapel here and a new roof there. Project led to project.

My sister Maureen told us about a home-building project in a small town in Nicaragua. We decided to build one house. Then we built five more.

Now we have a regular home-building program with the goal of erecting 18 houses this year.

In neither place did we have a plan. We just let the Spirit lead us. Our relationships grew organically.

Gradually we realized we needed a committee at either end. When more people are involved it is more stable. It can't be just the priests.

Each of our sister parish relationships presents challenges. For example, suspicion can be a problem. What does the other parish really want?

In Mexico, the first pastor we dealt with died in an auto accident. His

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



successor thought that all "gringos" were Protestant evangelicals and did not want anything to do with us. We gradually overcame his suspicions.

Language is another problem. My Spanish is rudimentary. We always need a native Spanish speaker at our end to be sure we are getting the correct information.

Expectations are also a big problem. We come from very different cultures. Our sister parishioners may presume we are wealthier than we really are. We may have priorities they don't share.

It is work, overcoming our mutual ignorance of each other to establish common goals. The relationship has to be personal and spiritual as well as financial if it is going to make a difference.

We need to pray for each other.

The key is communication. This requires frequent phone calls and visits both ways by priests and people.

The longer we have sister parish relationships, the more I think they are essential to our redemption. In the Middle Ages the church thought that the rich needed the poor to get into heaven.

After all, Jesus had said it was harder for the rich to pass through the eye of a needle.

'No food, no shelter, no medicine'

With cease-fires, Palestinians begin another type of struggle

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Implementation of the two unilateral cease-fires declared by Israel and the Palestinian militant organization Hamas does not signify an end of troubles for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip but just the start of another sort of struggle, said the Gaza Catholic parish priest.

"It is not enough to see that the war has stopped," Msgr. Manuel Musallam told Catholic News Service Jan. 18.

"We will begin to see psychological disturbances, diseases of question of hygiene, and other disturbances. We will need to find doctors for them, and we haven't specialists in Gaza," he said.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza estimates that 40 percent of the more than 1,300 Palestinians killed in the three-week Israeli offensive were women and children.

Israel puts the percentage closer to one-third and says most of them were caused by Hamas militants using the local population as shields as they lobbed missiles into civilian populations into Israel.

Dr. Jibril Baroud, director of a Catholic-run medical clinic in Gaza, said many people needed the advanced medical treatment available only in Israeli hospitals, and Gaza hospitals were waiting to be able to transfer them.

"The hospitals in Israel are very developed and offer complete intervention," he said. "Here we have no medicines, no materials or equipment."

Baroud, who works for the Jerusalem office of the Catholic aid agency Caritas, said he, too, was concerned about the possibility of the outbreak of epidemics such as cholera or typhus due to conditions in Gaza. Thousands of people shared public bathrooms, bodies remained unburied and were decomposing under the debris of destroyed buildings, and there were no facilities for washing up.

Many people were suffering from anemia, gastrointestinal diseases and malnutrition, as well as skin diseases such as scabies because of lack of hygiene, he said.

"There are a lot of people who have lost their homes. There is no food, no shelter, no medicine," Baroud said.

But Msgr. Musallam said he was more worried about emotional and psychological scars than physical wounds and disabilities.

"We have plenty of children who are traumatized, many are injured ... and have lost limbs," he said. "They have become handicapped. We will need to rehabilitate all these children."

"How many schools will we need for all these children and men and women? How many houses?" he asked.

With fewer than two dozen trained occupational therapists, Gaza will be in dire need of foreign therapists and mental health specialists to treat traumatized and severely injured children and adults, said Msgr. Musallam.

In addition, he said, with no state health-insurance most Palestinians will not be able to afford any kind of medical treatment and so will stay at home with their injuries.

The priest said only when the students return to school will he be able to assess the emotional and physical trauma they are experiencing and what course of action must be taken. "They will not readjust (to a normal life) just by teaching them religion," he said.

Dr. Hassan Zeyada, a psychologist and manager of the Gaza Community Center, said Gazans were not yet able to comprehend their losses. He said it would take about a week to become really aware of what had befallen them.

Palestinians estimate the economic damage to the Gaza Strip from the three-week war at \$1.9 billion, including some \$200 million worth of damage to 4,100 private homes. The Palestinian Statistical Authority said about 14 percent of all structures in Gaza were damaged and 31 miles of roads in the Gaza Strip were destroyed. It also said about \$1 million worth of private nonstructural property, including automobiles and furniture, had been destroyed.

"People are still in shock at all the damage," said Omar Shaban, a project manager in Gaza for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services. "They are now realizing how big the damage is."

Many people were without electricity and access to television, so they were not aware of the situation in the region.

"There will need to be assistance on the construction level and (for) renovating," said Shaban, noting that as soon as the security situation allowed it CRS staff would begin to assess the damages.

He added that the heavy destruction of roads and infrastructure would make it difficult to reach some areas.

Before the end of January the Gaza Community Center, which has partnered with CRS for other programs, planned to begin primary intervention programs that include art therapy, role playing and conversations to allow children to express their emotions and share their stories.

Zeyada said that as a result of the war most children in Gaza will experience immediate consequences such as nervousness, hyperactivity, clinging to their parents, aggressiveness, acting out and loss of appetite.

He added that mental health specialists also would need to work with parents to help them understand their children's changed behavior and what they can do to help.

Israeli mental health specialists note that children in the Israeli border towns who have lived under the threat of Hamas rocket attacks for eight years also show signs of trauma, with preteens still wetting their beds and children clinging to their mothers during the day and needing to sleep with their parents at night.

They also say many children show a lack of concentration in school.



CNS PHOTO BY JERRY LAMPEN, REUTERS

A Palestinian boy walks amid the ruins of a house in the northern Gaza Strip Jan. 20. Many Palestinians were returning to their houses, taking stock of the damage and death following Israel's 22-day offensive in Gaza.

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'Miracle' on the Hudson lands close to home

Catholic survivors
of plane crash
attribute outcome to
God's mercy

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "The odds were against us but God was with us," said Fred Berretta, a survivor of US Airways Flight 1549 that crash landed in the Hudson River Jan. 15.

"We had a phenomenal flight crew, but God was our air traffic controller," he said.

Berretta, one of several Charlotte-area Catholics aboard the flight, is a parishioner at St. Matthew Church.

He was flying home that day from a business trip in

See MERCY, page 5

Funding abortion

Pro-life leaders criticize
Obama for reversing
Mexico City policy

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pro-life activists quickly denounced President Barack Obama's Jan. 23 signing of an executive order reversing the Mexico City policy, a move that clears the way for the federal government to provide aid to programs that promote or perform abortions overseas.

"It is clear that the

See POLICY, page 6

DSA: A way to proclaim Christ through service

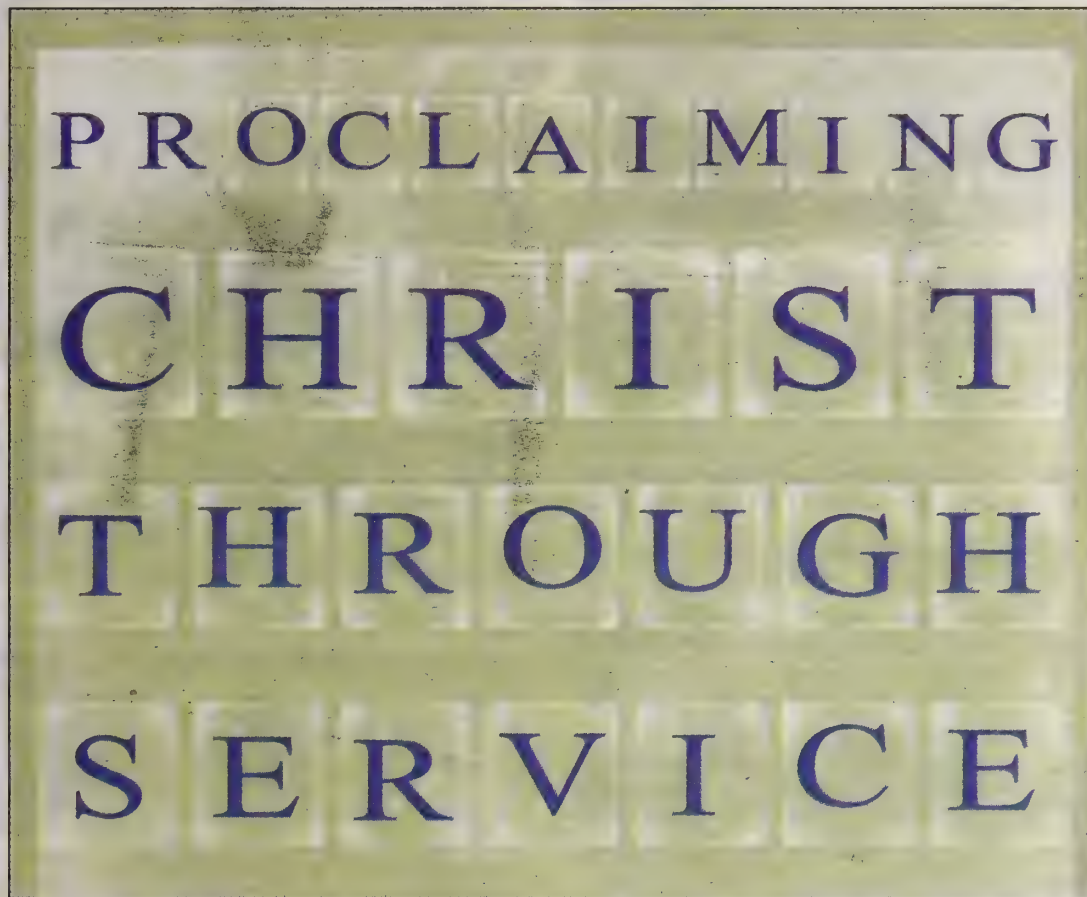


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Pictured is the poster for the 2009 Diocesan Support Appeal, which runs Feb. 1 through March 8. Its goal of \$4,296,500 provides funds for more than 30 diocesan ministries offering more than 50 programs.

See DSA, page 9

Taking to the streets

Pro-lifers flock to Washington on
Roe anniversary

Marchers turn Obama's
call for change against
him at rally

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Two days after millions of Americans converged on the National Mall in Washington to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama, tens of thousands of sign-carrying

citizens marched, chanted, sang and shouted in the same spot, loud enough — they hoped — for the nation's new leader to hear their pleas to outlaw abortion.

As pro-life activists and members of the U.S. Congress delivered anti-abortion speeches with the Capitol in the background, citizens carried

See MARCH, page 7



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Participants in the annual March for Life make their way up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22. It was the 36th annual March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

FUN AND FUNDAMENTALS



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI

Libbie Mannix, a student at Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, N.Y., dances with Frank Fazzina during the annual Senior to Senior Ball at St. Ann's Community, a senior home in Rochester last February. Each year seniors at the school volunteer to spend some quality time with senior residents. Calling generosity a "fundamental part of U.S. culture, Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said Jan. 23 that volunteering can help America recover from its current economic crisis.

Supreme knight: Volunteering can help nation get through crisis

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (CNS) — Volunteering can help America recover from its current economic crisis, said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

"Generosity is a fundamental part of the culture of the United States," Anderson said during a Jan. 23 speech at Jesuit-run Fairfield University, but he noted the philanthropic giving index was down 22 percent in the last six months of 2008.

"Volunteerism will be especially important in this economic environment," Anderson said.

"Many charitable organizations are used to providing massive amounts of aid to a great number of people, and mobilizing volunteers, in one geographic area. But this crisis is different," he continued.

"Those in need are not in one place; they are in many. ... They are our neighbors, our friends, our family members, and they need our help," he said.

Anderson used the speech as a kickoff to a planned Feb. 27 summit in New York City on volunteerism and making a charitable response to the current economic crisis. The summit will be co-sponsored by the Knights.

The Knights, he noted, donated 1,200 winter coats for distribution at three Catholic churches in Washington Jan. 19, the federal observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday and the day before President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Obama had asked Americans to contribute their time to volunteer efforts on the holiday for a national day of service.

"Such calls to help our neighbor are very important. But we cannot let our efforts to foster volunteerism consist of

only one Monday in January," Anderson said. "That day needs to be replicated throughout our country, over weeks and months, so that soon we will have made 2009 the year of the volunteer."

The ethic of volunteerism, according to Anderson, "is what helps Americans pull together to help our neighbors when times are tough or when disaster strikes."

"We have recently seen an outpouring of giving by our fellow citizens, at home and abroad: to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the United States, and to those whose lives were shattered by a tsunami in Indonesia, just to name two recent examples," he said.

"The remarkable strength of the Knights of Columbus — and similar organizations nationwide — lies not only in our ability to give money, but also in our ability to match our members' time and talent with people in need through an effective grass-roots structure of thousands of active councils motivated by the Christian principle of charity," Anderson said.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization headquartered in New Haven, Conn., estimated that in 2008 members of its councils contributed \$145 million and gave 69 million hours of volunteer service.

Anderson voiced his optimism that the United States would successfully emerge from the current crisis.

"This is the most innovative country in history. This is a nation filled with imagination and with people prepared to step forward," he said. "We must find ways to motivate those people, to stimulate their imagination, and to unlock the talent, energy and drive that will make a difference in America and move us ahead as a society as we enter a troubled third millennium."

Senate urged to include unborn, immigrants in children's health plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program should cover pregnant mothers and their unborn children, as well as legal immigrants who have not yet been in the country for five years, the head of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee told senators.

Bishop William F. Murphy, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also said in a letter to senators that SCHIP plans at the state and federal levels must not "promote or fund abortion or ignore parental rights to secure needed health care for their children in ways that do not violate their moral or religious convictions."

The bishop wrote to members of the Senate Jan. 14, the day the House of Representatives passed SCHIP legislation that includes legal immigrant children and pregnant women who are legal immigrants. The letter was made public just before the Senate began

consideration of the legislation Jan. 26.

"We have encouraged Congress to strengthen, expand and improve" SCHIP, Bishop Murphy wrote. "We believe Congress has a unique opportunity and the responsibility to improve the program and garner strong bipartisan support by enacting significant legislation that affirms the life and dignity of all."

The SCHIP reauthorization bill that passed the House by a 289-139 vote Jan. 14 would expand the joint federal-state program by about \$31.5 billion over the next four and a half years.

Bishop Murphy also called for a change that would codify the inclusion of unborn children and their mothers as beneficiaries of the program.

The immigration section of the legislation would waive the current five-year waiting period before legal immigrant pregnant women and legal immigrant children could be covered under SCHIP.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a special Mass for the sanctity of life at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Don Franz at (828) 697-8194.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

MINT HILL — A free concert by Al Barbarino will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. (note the date and time change of the concert). He will also sing at all of the weekend Masses Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Barbarino is a lay Franciscan of the St. Padre Pio Shelter in New York and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He sings in parishes around the world to raise awareness of the crisis of poverty and to promote a consciousness of God in our daily lives. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille,

911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. For more information, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "*The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics*" will take place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the second and fourth Mondays of the month, beginning Feb. 9 and ending May 25, 7-9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Topics will include: a biography of Pope Benedict and fundamentals of Christianity; the church (two sessions); liturgy; Mary; Scripture interpretation; truth, conscience and freedom; and the church and politics. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — An education event for adults coping with the death of a parent will be held in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Feb. 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Presenter will be Janice Olive from Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, contact BJ at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Father Daniel McCaffrey,

JANUARY 30, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 13

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
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The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: Fathers should look to Jesus' relationship with God

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — The president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum expressed concern that weakened masculinity around the world is preventing people from grasping Jesus' teaching about his Father.

"Today, the self-understanding of manhood and especially fatherhood is in crisis," said Cardinal Paul Cordes during a Jan. 23 presentation at the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

The cardinal, who heads the council responsible for coordinating charitable efforts, cited reports and surveys documenting "weakened male identity."

One of the reports said that 24 million children in the United States live in a home without a father. Cardinal Cordes said that figure was 10 million in the 1960s. The report found that, compared to boys who live with their fathers, boys from fatherless homes are twice as likely to end up in prison, more likely to drop out or be expelled from

school, and account for 63 percent of youth suicides and 90 percent of youths who run away from home.

In Europe, the cardinal said, recent trends also "work to diminish masculinity." Cardinal Cordes offered Jesus Christ's relationship with God the Father as a model for father-son relationships. Jesus spoke with God as a child, in a simple way, intimate and familiar, he said.

"Abba," which the cardinal translated as "papa" or "dear daddy" in today's understanding of language, reveals the most affectionate center of Jesus' relationship with God. However, he also noted the role of the father as the person who orients and directs the child and contributes to the child's growth in goodness even when it causes the child unpleasantness. Men who are not necessarily biological fathers perform that spiritual fathering role in developing children in ethics and values, he said.

founder of Natural Family Planning Outreach, will speak at all Masses at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Feb. 7 and 8 as part of a marriage enrichment weekend. Father McCaffrey will provide information on natural family planning (NFP), its practice, effectiveness, benefits and underlying moral principles. There will also be a presentation in the school library after all Masses. Father McCaffrey, NFP teachers and practicing couples will be available for consultation. For more information, call Meg Foppe at (336) 510-4218.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

HIGH POINT — There will be an open house at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Feb. 3 from 7 to 8 p.m. There will be a brief presentation, tour of the church, refreshments and an opportunity to speak with clergy. For more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — Free Spanish classes, beginner and advanced, will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. The classes will run for eight weeks. All materials will be furnished. For more information or to register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St. will host *HOSEA (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again)* for those who have been away from the faith and are interested in getting reacquainted with the Catholic Church. The sessions will be held 7:15-9 p.m. every Wednesday for six weeks beginning Feb. 11. Come and have your questions answered. For more information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097 or call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 7 (10:30 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Feb. 12 (7 p.m.)
Asheville Vicariate respect life Mass
Immaculate Conception Church,
Hendersonville

Feb. 18 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Feb. 20 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Vatican asks better health care for children with Hansen's disease

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children, especially those suffering from Hansen's disease, have a right to adequate health care, said Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan in a statement for World Leprosy Day.

"Children run the risk of seeing their futures mortgaged by the negative consequences of their illness," said Cardinal Lozano, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry.

The cardinal's statement was released Jan. 22 at the Vatican; World Leprosy Day is marked Jan. 25.

In his statement the cardinal focused on the needs of children with Hansen's disease and cited statistics from the World Health Organization, which in 2007 said there were more than 250,000 new cases of Hansen's, with 12 percent involving children.

He urged public and governmental institutions to respect "the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of the illness and rehabilitation of health."

Health care is among the rights recognized by the Convention on the

Rights of the Child, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Started 56 years ago, World Leprosy Day promotes awareness and corrects misconceptions about Hansen's disease — the formal name for leprosy — and provides an opportunity to extend thanks to those who have served its sufferers, Cardinal Lozano said.

Calling on Catholics around the world to maintain the fight against Hansen's and the prejudices against those with the disease, the cardinal praised Blessed Damien de Veuster, a Belgian-born missionary priest who served Hansen's disease patients on Molokai in Hawaii more than a century ago.

Cardinal Lozano also acknowledged the late Raoul Follereau, a Frenchman who established World Leprosy Day in an effort to combat the stigma against the disease.

"To those who suffer from Hansen's disease, to men and women religious missionaries active in the field, and the social and health care workers who help them," said Cardinal Lozano, "I express the nearness of this Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry."

Catholic and the cub



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI pets a lion cub held by a performer of the Medrano Circus during his weekly general audience at the Vatican Jan. 28.

Pope appoints Rockville Centre priest to be bishop of Charleston

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Robert E. Guglielmone, 63, rector of the Cathedral of St. Agnes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., as bishop of Charleston, S.C.

The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 24 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop-designate Guglielmone succeeds Bishop Robert J. Baker, who headed the Charleston Diocese from September 1999 until he was named bishop of Birmingham, Ala., in

August 2007. He will be ordained and installed as the 13th bishop of Charleston March 25.

"I am both humbled and grateful that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, would entrust this awesome ministry to me," Bishop-designate Guglielmone said in a statement, but he admitted he was "a bit anxious about leaving Long Island where I have spent almost my whole life."

"However, I do trust in the Lord and am very encouraged by the wonderful sense of Southern hospitality I have already experienced," he said.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Visualizing the faith and future

Diocese uses new videoconferencing technology

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte is harnessing new technology to better reach and serve parishioners.

The diocese, in a project undertaken by the diocesan Catholic schools office, has acquired videoconferencing equipment to connect various locations in the 46-county diocese.

Videoconferencing uses interactive technology to allow two or more locations to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously. Through a combination of cameras, telephones and televisions, people at different sites can communicate in a virtual face-to-face setting.

The technology also is capable of incorporating data from computers, cameras and DVDs.

"This equipment is a way to bring school staffs, principals and teachers in particular together without having to drive long distances," said Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools and a videoconferencing project coordinator.

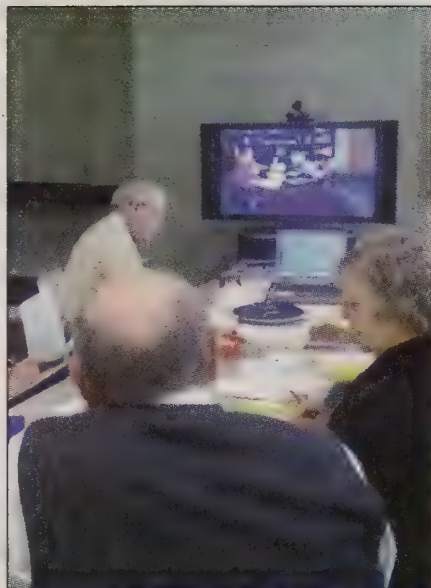
"We also have volunteers who sit on boards and drive a considerable way to attend meetings, often in the evening, which puts them on the road late at night," said Ritter. "Videoconferencing is an option that is respectful of people's time and is environmentally friendly."

In the configuration adopted by the diocese, the Pastoral Center in Charlotte serves as the main videoconferencing hub and houses the equipment to connect to the five satellite sites across the diocese — Asheville Catholic School, Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte and Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

Each of the five sites contains a smaller version of the videoconferencing equipment, which allows it to connect to other sites independently or to multiple sites through the Pastoral Center.

The equipment already has been used for several school-related meetings, but other ministries are taking advantage of it as well.

Diocesan Hispanic ministry recently utilized the equipment for a "Why Catholic?" training session at the Pastoral Center Jan. 17.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JANICE RITTER

Members of the diocesan schools steering committee use videoconferencing equipment at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte to communicate with members at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Jan. 14.

The facilitator, Sister Veronica Mendez, a Sister of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine and member of RENEW International, was able to teach the program to participants in the room as well as others in Maggie Valley and Kernersville.

"It was the first time we could hold the training session in one day, covering the diocese without having to hold multiple sessions," said Jorge Gomiz, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Charlotte Vicariate.

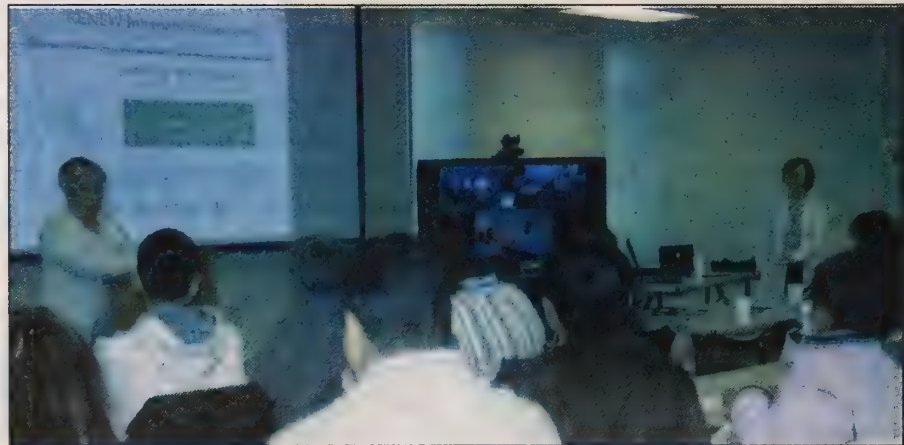
"Why Catholic?" is a program of RENEW International, a Roman Catholic organization that fosters spiritual renewal and evangelization through parish-based small Christian communities.

"The videoconferencing technology allows us to reach more people efficiently and cost effectively," said Gomiz.

"I see this technology as replacing some, not all, of the face-to-face meetings we currently hold," said Ritter.

"I also see educational applications," she added. "I would love to see teachers and students investigate the use of this technology for collaborative instruction."

"With equipment housed at our two high schools, that might be a possibility in the not-too-distant future," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JORGE GOMIZ

Sister Veronica Mendez of RENEW International leads a videoconference training session on the "Why Catholic?" program from the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Jan. 17.

Constructive care

Autistic Boy Scout leads fence-building project for autism group home

HUNTERSVILLE — Jay Conrad recently completed an Eagle Scout service project for a cause that has personal meaning.

As part of his project, Jay, a Life Scout with Troop 97, which is sponsored by St. Mark Church in Huntersville, built a fence for a Charlotte group home for adults with autism.

Jay has a form of autism called Asperger's Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder characterized by difficulties in social communication and social skills.

Through his involvement in Boy Scouts, Jay has become more comfortable in social settings, learned and practiced organizational and occupational skills, and engaged in interpersonal relationships.

Similar to other Scouts striving to earn their Eagle rank, the highest in Boy Scouts, Jay organized a service project that would require months of planning and encompass more than 100 hours of work by a group of Scouts and adult volunteers.

After soliciting donations and materials needed, seven Scouts and three adults spent Jan. 24 digging holes for fence posts, placing posts and rails, and attaching wire mesh to the fence.

The fence will help prevent residents of the group home from leaving the property unescorted.

"The boys should be proud of themselves," said Anne McQuiston, a director with Autism Services of Mecklenburg County, administrator of the facility.



COURTESY PHOTO

Boy Scout Jay Conrad nails wire mesh in place on a fence he helped design and build at a Charlotte group home for adults with autism Jan. 24. The work was part of Jay's Eagle rank service project.

"The fence is beautiful and will serve its purpose well," she said.

Representatives of the administration hope other local Scouts will consider building similar fences for other group homes in the area.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Boy Scout Troop 97, contact Jim Conrad at (704) 756-5550.

For more information about Autism Services of Mecklenburg County, call (704) 392-9220, extension 107, or visit www.autismservices.org.



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A Day with St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

9 am — 4pm

Thursday, March 5 OR Saturday, March 7

(the same program will be offered both days)

Dr. Peter Judge

This day of reflection will provide an overview introduction, guided reading, ideas for personal reflection, silence, prayer, journaling, Eucharist and lunch.

Cost: \$35 — includes lunch

FROM THE COVER

"It's as if we were delivered back on the wings of angels." Catholic survivors of plane crash attribute outcome to God's mercy

MERCY, from page 1

New York when the plane struck a flock of birds, causing both engines to fail.

All 155 people aboard the flight survived the emergency landing.

Berretta said he believes it is "a testimony to God's mercy."

"I believe it was miraculous that all the things came together that allowed us to survive," said Berretta, himself a pilot.

Just hours after the crash, he was asked in an interview with a national television network if he was a religious man.

His answer was honest, "I try to be."

"Quite a long time ago I had a conversion type of experience back to the Catholic faith," Berretta said in an interview with The Catholic

News & Herald.

He had been away from the Catholic faith since childhood, but began attending Mass again on a weekly basis during his mid-20s.

"When I look back on that part of my life, I can say that I was trying, trying but struggling to live the Catholic faith more fully," he said.

More recently, however, Berretta experienced a deeper draw to devotional prayer.

In the weeks leading up to the plane crash, he began praying the rosary on a daily basis.

And the day before the crash he had prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

"That was a prayer that I hadn't said in a long time," said Berretta, as he recalled reading about a message that Jesus gave to St. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun who said she had a vision of Jesus in which he asked for devotions to divine mercy.

"I remember reading in that little booklet that Jesus said to Sister Faustina that the 3 p.m. hour is the hour of mercy, and whatever you ask of the Father in virtue of my passion during this hour will



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Rescue boats move in as passengers float in a raft near the US Airways Airbus 320 aircraft that landed in the Hudson River in New York Jan. 15.

be granted," said Berretta.

"It sort of hit me as we were going into the water that it was in the 3 o'clock hour. So I asked God to be merciful to us and I said a few Hail Marys and I reconciled myself to the fact that I might not live through it," he said.

In the aftermath of the crash, Berretta said he has been "giving a lot of thought to the power of those prayers."

"When you go through an experience like this — if you have faith — you feel a profound sense of gratitude.

"I try to be very thoughtful of how fortunate I am and we all are," Berretta said.

"I feel that almost obligates me to do

something ... to share that," he added.

Fellow survivor Victor Warnement came away from the experience with a similar sentiment.

"You don't go through an experience like this without thinking, 'How do I give more?'" he said.

Warnement, a parishioner at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, believes he and the other passengers aboard Flight 1549 were part of a miracle.

"If you look at statistics, this doesn't happen," he said. "It's as if we were delivered back on the wings of angels."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



St. Matthew "YOU"niversity presents –
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to our Priests – and now to YOU!**

Pope Benedict XVI had three reasons for proclaiming 2008-2009 the year of St. Paul. He hopes to encourage a scholarly study of the Pauline corpus. He hopes this will lead to an increase of daily study of Paul, deep spiritual reflection on his life and writings, and an explosion of desire on the part of all of us to pattern ourselves after Paul, as Paul patterned himself after the Lord.

In union with our Pope, in communion with our Church, the priests of St. Matthew offer these lectures as part of St. Matthew "YOU"niversity adult enrichment.

Note: In order for you to get the very most out of these lectures, you are invited to read prior to the lecture the designated St. Paul letter and the appropriate chapter from Father Raymond Brown's "Introduction to the New Testa-

ment": Anchor Bible Reference Library, Doubleday (available in St. Matthew Gift Shop).

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Thursday, February 5, 2009
7 – 8:30 pm

**The Letter to the Romans
Fr. Patrick Cahill**

Read Fr. Ray Brown –
Pages 559-584

Thursday, March 5, 2009
Susan Brady
The Letter to the Galatians

Thursday, May 7, 2009
Fr. Patrick Toole
The Second Letter to the Corinthians

WHERE:

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Charlotte, NC 28277
New Life Center, Banquet Room



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THE
CATHOLIC
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RESPECT LIFE

Ending a 'dark chapter'

Groups applaud Obama's decision to end torture, close Guantanamo

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Presidential executive orders to ban torture and close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are just the first steps in an effort to assure that torture never again becomes part of American policy, said religious and human rights workers.

Organizations such as the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which has partnered with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, planned to work toward getting the restrictions outlined in the Jan. 22 orders signed by President Barack Obama adopted into law.

"Our goal is to make sure this dark chapter never repeats itself in American history," said the Rev. Richard Killmer, the campaign's executive director.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, welcomed the order to ban torture Jan. 22, saying in a statement that the president's action will "help restore the moral and legal standing of the United States in the world."

"A ban on torture says much about us, who we are, what we believe about human life and dignity and how we act as a nation," Bishop Hubbard said.

Obama's action signals a departure from his predecessor, President George W. Bush, who denied ever approving torture, but allowed "enhanced interrogation techniques" to obtain information from detainees at the prison in Guantanamo and in detention facilities around the world.

At one point, the CIA admitted to waterboarding three detainees in 2003. Waterboarding causes the sensation of drowning and is considered torture by human rights activists and some military and intelligence officials.

In all, Obama signed three orders Jan. 22. The first closes the Guantanamo prison within a year. Detainees have been held at the prison for seven years. About 250 detainees remain at the prison.

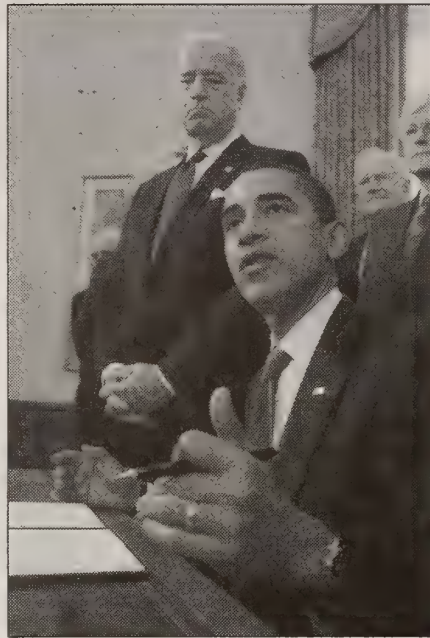
The second bans torture and the harshest interrogation methods in place since the first suspected terrorists were captured by American forces in Afghanistan in 2001.

All U.S. interrogators will be required to adhere to the Geneva Conventions and follow the U.S. Army Field Manual, which prohibits threats, coercion, physical abuse and waterboarding during questioning.

The third establishes an interagency task force to review detention policies and procedures as well as individual cases of detainees, with a report due 30 days after the signing of the executive order.

Reaction from religious and human rights groups seeking to overturn U.S. policy on Guantanamo and the use of torture was laudatory.

Matt Daloisio, a Catholic Worker and a leader in a faith-based campaign called Witness Against Torture, applauded



CNS PHOTO BY LARRY DOWNING, REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington Jan. 22 during a ceremony to sign executive orders to close the U.S. military prison at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ban torture and scrap legal justifications for extreme interrogation methods. At left is Vice President Joseph Biden.

Obama's action.

At the same time he called for a quick review of the cases of the Guantanamo detainees as well as the thousands who are being held at what are known as "black site" facilities worldwide.

London-based Amnesty International called Obama's action "a major step forward" and a "welcome sign that the new administration is willing to right the wrongs of the past."

"By prioritizing the closure of Guantanamo in his first 48 hours in office, President Obama is sending an important message to the rest of the world that the USA is now closing a dark chapter in its history," said Irene Khan, the organization's secretary general.



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Pro-life leaders criticize Obama for policy reversal

POLICY, from page 1

provisions of the Mexico City policy are unnecessarily broad and unwarranted under current law, and for the past eight years they have undermined efforts to promote safe and effective voluntary family planning in developing countries," Obama said.

He made the comments in a prepared statement Jan. 23, issued shortly after he signed an executive order reversing the ban first instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

"For these reasons," he continued, "it is right for us to rescind this policy and restore critical efforts to protect and empower women and promote global economic development."

Obama signed the order with no fanfare and with no news media in the room, a marked contrast to signings of executive orders earlier that week.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called the reversal "very disappointing."

"An administration that wants to reduce abortions should not divert U.S. funds to groups that promote abortions," Cardinal Rigali said.

"Women facing unplanned pregnancies need support of family and friends — that is true in the United States or any other country in the world," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life program director in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"To provide funding to end a pregnancy does not address the fundamental issues a mother may be facing. Very often the term 'choice' regarding abortion really translates as 'coercion,'" said Nadol.

"What a terrible way to begin a new administration, with an abortion business bailout that will exploit women in developing countries for political ends," said Charmaine Yost, president of the Washington-based Americans United for Life Action. "We should not export the tragedy of abortion to other nations, and we certainly shouldn't do so via the hard-earned dollars of American taxpayers."

The policy banned U.S. taxpayer money, usually in the form of funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development, from going to international family planning groups that either offer abortions or provide information, counseling or referrals about abortion.

A federal law known as the Hyde amendment prohibits U.S. funding from being used directly to provide abortions.

The Mexico City policy was reversed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and re-established under President George W. Bush in 2001.

Clinton and Bush both took their actions on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* that recognized abortion as a constitutional right and overturned state laws against abortion.

The policy has been called the

"global gag rule" by its opponents, because it prohibits taxpayer funding for groups that even talk about abortion if there is an unplanned pregnancy, and is known as the Mexico City policy because it was unveiled at a U.N. conference there in 1984.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the conference, had urged Obama shortly before his inauguration not to reverse the Mexico City policy.

News of the executive order also drew strong public criticism from Priests for Life, a group that calls itself the largest U.S. Catholic pro-life organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, and the Catholic bishops of Colorado, as well as House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

"This executive order is a profound disappointment for me and millions of other Americans who were hopeful that President Obama's vow to govern from the center would apply to the divisive issue of abortion," said Boehner, who is Catholic.

Many people expected Obama, like Clinton and Bush, to sign the executive order Jan. 22, when thousands of pro-life marchers were protesting U.S. abortion policy, but he decided to wait a day.

"I see that as a sign of respect to the Catholics and other pro-life activists," said Thomas Melady, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, who wanted to see the Mexico City policy remain intact.

"It says something about his style and the courtesy he extended to those of us participating in the March for Life," Melady said Jan. 23. "It says he is concerned about the other point of view, which is a good foundation for finding common ground."

Not everyone saw Obama's waiting a day after the pro-life observance as a sign of respect.

"If he respected the pro-life cause, he wouldn't have signed this order at all," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities.

"We're concerned this can only be the tip of the iceberg for President Obama's abortion policy. This should strengthen our resolve" for the pro-life cause, she said.

The executive order will not fund abortions directly, McQuade said, but it will indirectly provide financial resources to perform the procedures.

"Since these organizations will be getting U.S. funding, it will free them up to use money they would have had to spend elsewhere on abortions," she said.

According to Third Way, a Washington-based nonprofit think tank, more than 99 percent of the estimated 536,000 women who die each year from pregnancy-related causes live in developing countries. Third Way argues that, if family planning needs were met for all women in the developing world who do not have access to contraception, pregnancy-related deaths would drop by 25 percent to 35 percent.

Pro-lifers call those statistics a smoke screen to promote an abortion agenda.

RESPECT LIFE

Pro-lifers flock to Washington on Roe anniversary

MARCH, from page 1

signs that read "Mr. President, please save the children," and "Obama, stop the baby war: Abortion," during the 2009 March for Life Jan. 22.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, clergy and others from the Diocese of Charlotte participated in the march, which was held on the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

"The culmination of the march is the opportunity to pray at the U.S. Supreme Court building," said Bishop Jugis. "A group of priests, lay people and I prayed a rosary together in front of the Supreme Court, the place where this national tragedy began 36 years ago."

The same day the Supreme Court ruled on the Roe case, it also handed down the companion decision Doe v. Bolton. Together, Roe and Doe recognized abortion as a constitutional right and overturned state laws banning the procedure.

"Abortion is a complete injustice — to society, to the child who is being murdered and to the woman who is having the abortion," said Frank Delamere, religion teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School who has organized student trips to the march for 12 years.

"People need to know that this is something that is absolutely wrong and it needs to be stopped," he said.

The 150 Charlotte Catholic students attending this year's march were among the hundreds of youths from the diocese to participate.

"I was happy to see many young people from parishes all over our diocese who have come to Washington for the event," said Bishop Jugis.

Prior to the march, Bishop Jugis concelebrated a Mass with Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

People — mostly from North Carolina — filled the shrine to capacity to attend the Mass.

"It is encouraging to see the shrine filled with so many from the dioceses of

both Charlotte and Raleigh," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life program director in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We were fortunate that Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge celebrated Mass for us the morning of the March for Life," said Nadol. "We know we face obstacles requiring God's grace to change hearts that have accepted the deceit of the pro-abortion movement."

During his homily, Bishop Jugis said it was "inspiring to see that North Carolina has turned out in full force again this year."

"The most dangerous place to be in our country is in the womb, but that can change through our prayers and sacrifices to convert hearts to the truth about life," he said.

Bishop Jugis called the pro-life movement "a beacon of hope to our society, offering the hopeful alternatives of life and love — instead of destruction — for the unborn child."

"There is always a better choice than abortion, and that is life," he said.

During the Mass, Bishop Burbidge said that when society rejects the value of life, which is at the heart of the Gospel, then "we have to stand up even stronger and that's what we're seeing here today."

"We've heard many messages from those who have been elected that they are not supporters of a culture of life," said Bishop Burbidge. "Now, more than ever, is a critical time to be witnesses of that message of life. There is reason to be concerned."

In a Jan. 22 statement, Obama said he is "committed to protecting a woman's right to choose," but he also wants to find a way to reduce the number of abortions performed in the United States each year.

But pro-life activists quickly denounced Obama's Jan. 23 signing of an executive order reversing the Mexico City policy, a move that clears the way for the federal government to provide aid to programs that promote or perform abortion overseas.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, commented: "An administration that wants to reduce abortions should not divert U.S. funds to groups that promote abortions."



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Larry LoMonaco, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville and Immaculate Conception Mission in Canton, stands with 28 parishioners from seven churches in western North Carolina outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 22. The group took part in the annual March for Life that day.

Calling for change

Obama's vocal support of abortion came under fire from members of Congress, clergy and pro-life activists during the opening rally of the march.

For nearly two hours Jan. 22, a crowd estimated at 100,000 listened to three dozen speakers pledge to fight efforts to expand the availability of abortion and to oppose any increases in federal funding for agencies that perform abortions.

The crowd's disdain for Obama's views on abortion offered a sharp contrast to the exuberance that nearly 2 million people showered on the 44th president at his inauguration on the very same grounds 48 hours earlier.

Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life Fund which annually sponsors the march, invited Obama to discuss "important changes" in his stance. To become a president of all people, as he has pledged, Gray urged him to take steps to end legal abortion.

"Mr. President, you are a great orator, and we appreciate the great words ... but you must also be a great doer of the deeds to overturn the illicit Roe v. Wade and fulfill your responsibility to make right and proper changes as president of the United States and president of all the people," she said.

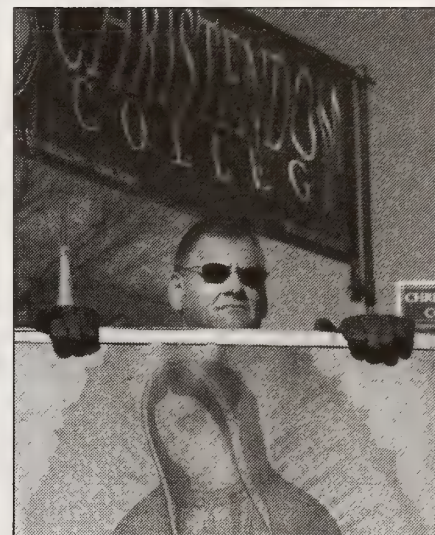
More than two dozen Republican members of Congress also were on hand, speaking about their plans to introduce legislation to limit funding to agencies performing abortions, overturn Roe v. Wade or to fund programs that support pregnant women, giving them a better chance of carrying their children to term.

Papal encouragement

Although he was not physically present, Pope Benedict XVI's greeting added to the excitement of the more than 20,000 young people at a youth rally and Mass for life Jan. 22 at the Verizon Center sports arena in Washington.

The rally and Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, preceded the annual March for Life.

The apostolic nuncio to the United



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Roy Lesson, a parishioner at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, holds an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the March for Life rally on the National Mall Jan. 22 in Washington.

States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, read the message from the pope to the Verizon crowd. The pontiff said he was "deeply grateful to all who take part in this outstanding annual witness to the Gospel of life, and to the many others who support them by fasting and prayer."

His Jan. 22 message noted that "no Christian can shirk the moral duty of affirming the sacredness of God's gift of life at every stage of its development and working to ensure that this fundamental human right receives due legal protection."

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.



The Respect Life program of the Diocese of Charlotte is partly funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of February:

Rev. Edward Beatty	1990
Bishop Michael J. Begley	2002
Rev. Lawrence Hill	1985



2008 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES DIOCESAN MINISTRIES

Family Life Office	\$233,473
— Elder Ministry	
— Marriage Preparation	
— Natural Family Planning	
— Respect Life	

Office of Justice and Peace	\$151,241
— Office of Economic Opportunity	

Catholic Social Services Administration	\$306,066
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Refugee Resettlement Office	\$68,700
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CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES REGIONAL SERVICES

CSS Western Regional Office, Asheville	\$206,815
— Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program	

CSS Charlotte Regional Office	\$292,342
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CSS Piedmont Triad Office, Winston-Salem	\$281,441
— Greensboro Satellite Office	
— Latino Family Center, High Point	
— Casa Guadalupe, Winston-Salem	
— Casa Guadalupe, Greensboro	

HOUSING MINISTRY	\$103,972
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MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

African American Affairs Ministry	\$42,219
Hispanic Ministry	\$658,180
Hmong Ministry	\$48,517

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Campus Ministry	\$455,921
Catholic Schools Administration	\$126,387
Education Office	\$58,861
Evangelization and Lay Ministry Formation	\$75,614
Faith Formation	\$310,674
Media Resources	\$85,970
Young Adult Ministry	\$55,414
Youth Ministry	\$103,513

VOCATIONS

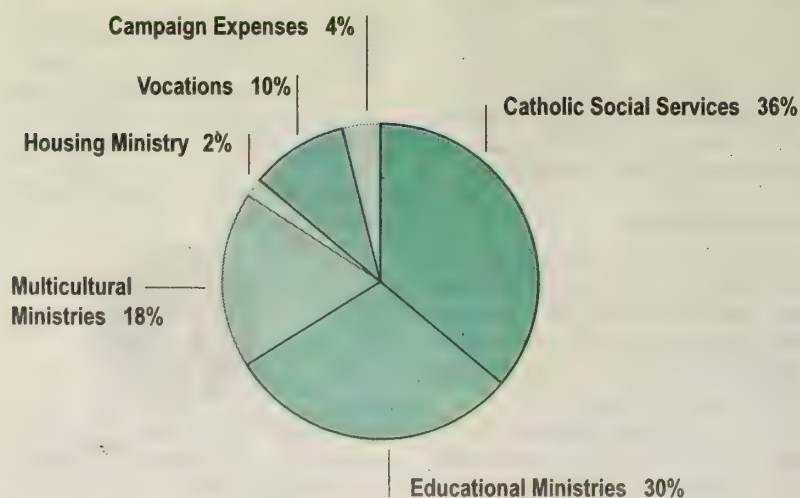
Permanent Diaconate (includes prison ministry)	\$210,811
Seminarian Education	\$233,199

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES	\$187,170
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TOTAL	\$4,296,500
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For more information on this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, visit www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

Allocation of funds



DSA-SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES

Catholic Social Services Diocesan Offices

— Family Life Office	704-370-3228
— Elder Ministries	704-370-3220
— Marriage Preparation	704-370-3228
— Natural Family Planning	704-370-3228
— Respect Life	704-370-3229

Office of Justice and Peace	704-370-3225
— Office of Economic Opportunity	828-835-3535

Catholic Social Services Administration	704-370-3262
— Refugee Resettlement Office	704-370-3262

Catholic Social Services Regional Offices

Offering: Adoption—Hispanic Services—Counseling—Pregnancy Support

CSS Western Regional Office	828-255-0146
CSS Charlotte Regional Office	704-370-3262
CSS Piedmont Triad Regional Office	336-727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office	336-274-5577
Latino Family Center, High Point	336-884-5858
Casa Guadalupe, Winston-Salem	336-727-4745
Casa Guadalupe, Greensboro	336-574-2837

Housing Ministry	704-370-3248
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Multicultural Ministries

African American Affairs Ministry	704-370-3267
Hispanic Ministry	704-370-3269
Hmong Ministry	828-584-6012

Educational Ministries

Vicar for Education	704-370-3210
Campus Ministry	704-370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3270
Evangelization	704-370-3274
Faith Formation	704-370-3244
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3274
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3244
Young Adult Ministry	704-370-3243
Youth Ministry	704-370-3211

Vocations

Permanent Diaconate	704-370-3344
Seminarian Education	704-370-3353

Ways to give to the Diocesan Support Appeal

Pledge: Make a pledge and pay it in equal payments over a six-month period.

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT): Have your monthly pledge payments taken directly out of your checking or savings account. No hassle of writing a monthly check or mailings.

Fill out the withdrawal authorization on your pledge card and include a voided check. EFTs will begin on the 15th of each month once we receive your pledge card and authorization materials.

Credit Card Payments: Possibly the easiest method and may benefit from rewards on your card, such as airline miles or cash back; and you can enjoy the ease of no paperwork.

Fill out the credit card authorization on your pledge card. Be sure to include

the type of card (Visa or Master Card) and expiration date.

Credit card payments will be taken on the 15th of the month once we receive your pledge card and authorization.

Online Giving: Go online with any major credit card at the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html. No hassle, paperwork or mailings involved.

Stock Donation: Make a donation of publicly traded securities and receive the tax benefits for giving appreciated stock.

A stock donation form and instructions can be downloaded from the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html, or call Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302.

DSA helps fund ministries, programs in diocese

GOAL

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church	Albemarle	27,140
Holy Redeemer Church	Andrews	4,782
St. Barnabas Church	Arden	74,493
St. Joseph Church	Asheboro	34,134
Basilica of St. Lawrence	Asheville	55,482
St. Joan of Arc Church	Asheville	20,611
St. Eugene Church	Asheville	73,619
Queen of the Apostles Church	Belmont	41,419
Our Lady of the Americas Church	Biscoe-Candor	17,618
St. Elizabeth Church	Boone	32,476
Divine Redeemer Church	Boonville	8,556
Sacred Heart Church	Brevard	51,743
St. Joseph Church	Bryson City	5,202
Sacred Heart Mission	Burnsville	5,577
Immaculate Conception Mission	Canton	3,656
St. Jude Mission	Cashiers	20,181
St. Peter Church	Charlotte	74,446
St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Charlotte	107,408
St. Joseph Church	Charlotte	16,490
St. John Neumann Church	Charlotte	78,619
Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Charlotte	44,268
St. John Lee Korean Church	Charlotte	15,979
St. Luke Church	Charlotte	70,937
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Charlotte	102,256
Our Lady of Consolation Church	Charlotte	40,198
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Charlotte	40,920
St. Patrick Cathedral	Charlotte	85,626
St. Gabriel Church	Charlotte	278,657
St. Ann Church	Charlotte	54,398
St. Matthew Church	Charlotte	436,557
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission	Cherokee	2,381
Holy Family Church	Clemmons	114,258
St. James the Greater Church	Concord	85,459
Holy Spirit Church	Denver	38,751
St. Joseph of the Hills Church	Eden	8,949
St. Stephen Mission	Elkin	7,770
Immaculate Conception Church	Forest City	19,671
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Franklin	26,646
St. Michael Church	Gastonia	67,650
Our Lady of Grace Church	Greensboro	122,529
St. Benedict Church	Greensboro	21,430
St. Paul the Apostle Church	Greensboro	127,599
St. Pius X Church	Greensboro	105,682
St. Mary Church	Greensboro	34,452
St. James the Greater Church	Hamlet	11,288
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission	Hayesville	20,375
Immaculate Conception Church	Hendersonville	114,662
St. Aloysius Church	Hickory	107,877
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	High Point	108,648
Christ the King Church	High Point	16,181
Our Lady of the Mountains Church	Highlands	12,773
St. Mark Church	Huntersville	160,180
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Jefferson	12,012
St. Joseph Church	Kannapolis	15,867
Holy Cross Church	Kernersville	61,774
Good Shepherd Mission	King	12,089
Christ the King Mission	Kings Mountain	5,914
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Lenoir	22,304
Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Lexington	14,669
St. Dorothy Church	Lincolnton	18,898
St. Bernadette Mission	Linville	19,231
St. Margaret Church	Maggie Valley	20,333
Our Lady of the Angels Church	Marion	10,948
St. Andrew the Apostle Church	Mars Hill	8,405
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Mocksville	17,048
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Monroe	50,442
St. Therese Church	Mooreville	134,466
St. Charles Borromeo Church	Morganton	37,473
Holy Angels Church	Mount Airy	19,921
St. William Church	Murphy	20,077
St. Joseph Church	Newton	19,216
St. John Baptist de La Salle Church	North Wilkesboro	12,666
Holy Infant Church	Reidsville	15,443
Prince of Peace Mission	Robbinsville	2,842
Sacred Heart Church	Salisbury	73,308
St. Mary Church	Shelby	25,149
St. Frances of Rome Mission	Sparta	7,230
St. Helen Mission	Spencer Mountain	5,139
St. Lucien Church	Spruce Pine	7,736
St. Philip the Apostle Church	Statesville	40,732
St. Margaret Mary Church	Swannanoa	19,536
St. Mary Church	Sylva	16,035
Holy Trinity Church	Taylorsville	8,039
Our Lady of the Highways Church	Thomasville	13,319
St. John the Baptist Church	Tryon	29,558
Sacred Heart Mission	Wadesboro	3,260
St. John the Evangelist Church	Waynesville	18,792
Our Lady of Mercy Church	Winston-Salem	62,812
St. Benedict the Moor Church	Winston-Salem	10,814
St. Leo the Great Church	Winston-Salem	135,231
Our Lady of Fatima Church	Winston-Salem	9,263

The 2009 DSA provides funding for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Planning for this year's DSA began last fall as budgeting* for the 2009-10 fiscal year began. Establishing the current goal involved analyzing account-by-account budgets for each program and ministry

For more information on this year's DSA campaign, visit www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Latest 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' series is written for Catholics

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series can now add Catholics to the more than 200 groups in its targeted audience.

In mid-December, "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith" became the most recent addition to a series that has sold more than 112 million copies in 40 languages over the past 16 years.

The "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books are filled with personal stories (always 101) and each volume is aimed toward a specific audience. There are books specifically directed to members of the Jewish faith, Latter-day Saints, Christians and Christian women.

LeAnn Thieman, who co-authored "Living Catholic Faith," is no stranger to the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" phenomenon. She has co-authored nine other books in the series and is currently working on a new "Chicken Soup" book about miracles.

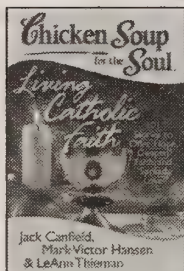
When Thieman, who is Catholic, was first approached about working on a "Chicken Soup" book for Catholics, she wasn't sure such a book was necessary since the series already had a book addressing Christians.

She changed her mind in 2005 during the media coverage of Pope John Paul II's death and funeral Mass, which she said revealed the large number of devout Catholics in the world.

Around that same time, she received another call from the "Chicken Soup" publisher who said Catholics should have their own book. This time she agreed, saying, "You're not doing it without me."

The book's stories include anecdotes about the sacraments, praying the rosary, growing up Catholic, good role models and challenges in living the faith.

In a Jan. 8 phone interview, Thieman said she tells fellow Catholics that they'll find "a bit of your family, your roots and yourself in this book."



She said the stories are ones Catholics will identify with and "should really rekindle their faith."

What impressed her the most in the two-year process of gathering stories and editing them was "how people love this church and their Catholic faith. Even people who have problems (with the Catholic Church) in the end are drawn to it and love it," she said.

Thieman said the new book should "give us pride in our faith," something she acknowledged Catholics could use some help with today.

The appeal of the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, she said, is that people relate to the stories.

Or as Thieman put it: "When people read stories they relate to, they feel understood."

They find hope, she said, from reading that "someone's been where they are" and just learning how they handled or coped with a situation.

It also turns out that people have plenty of stories to tell. Thieman said she has received at least 4,000 submitted stories for "Chicken Soup" books she's edited. From that number, only 101 can make the final cut.

And for Thieman, it's not all about dosing out inspiration. She said she receives her fair share of inspiration from those she meets at talks around the country.

"I'm humbled that God picked me to do this," she said.

American Catholic Historical Association honors two books

NEWYORK (CNS)—The American Catholic Historical Association selected "Vatican Secret Diplomacy: Joseph P. Hurley and Pope Pius XII" by Charles Gallagher as the best book on the history of the Catholic Church in the 12 months that ended June 30.

The book won the association's John Gilmary Shea Prize and a \$750 award.

Gallagher, who is a Jesuit scholastic, has taught at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and worked as archivist-historian of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla.

"Passion and Order: Restraint of

Grief in the Medieval Italian Communes" by Carol Leroy Lansing was chosen for the Howard R. Marraro Prize, awarded each year to the author of a distinguished scholarly work dealing with Italian history or Italo-American history or relations.

Lansing is a professor of history at the University of California at Santa Barbara. In 2008 she was a visiting professor at the Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence, Italy.

The awards were presented Jan. 4 during the association's annual meeting in New York.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 8, 2009

Feb. 8, Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-6
- 2) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Faith in God will help us persevere

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The quality of drivenness is obvious in the attitudes of Paul and Jesus in this weekend's reading.

Paul's great desire was to preach the good news to others so they could enter into the love of God made possible by Jesus' presence among us. Jesus was moved to carry out the Father's will by going about announcing the love of God and showing his Father's greatness, power and compassion through healing and teaching.

They showed the highest of motivations: the desire to help others in the name of God, and a self-forgetfulness in pursuing those goals.

Job, by contrast, pulls himself along, suffering the passing of time purposeless, depressed and defeated. He has no great drive; he has all but given up under the great weight of his trials.

We can identify with both ways of facing the world. We learn in other passages that, to Job's credit, he clings to the shard of his broken faith in the face of his supposed friends who search for ways to find him at fault for his run of

incredibly hard times.

Even his wife asks why he doesn't simply curse God and die.

But faith, no matter how small, is substantial and without knowing why God is allowing all of this to happen, Job perseveres in the belief that God remains God, no matter what.

At this moment, my wife, who had major cancer surgery only three weeks ago, is spending her second uncomfortable night in the hospital with her elderly, frail mother who injured her hip.

Tomorrow, unable to walk, her mother will have to go from the hospital to some other form of assisted care to help her with the simplest things of life. She remains the same delightful, happy woman I have known for 45 years despite an aphasia that robs her of her power to effectively use spoken words to communicate.

Sometimes life is hard. But my wife, like Job, continues on. Like Paul and Jesus, she has a sense of purpose, a drive to do what she can to make sure her mother is cared for with love and respect.

And with the psalmist we can still say: "Praise the Lord, for he is good. ... Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Questions:

Have you had to endure hard times in pursuit of your goal of serving God, others or your family? What did you learn from persevering in faith? How has it made you stronger?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"The Lord sustains the lowly" (Psalm 147:6a).

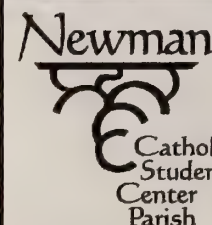
WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 1-7

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28; Monday (The Presentation of the Lord), Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; Tuesday (St. Blaise), Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; Wednesday, Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; Thursday (St. Agatha), Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; Friday (Paul Miki and Companions), Hebrews 13:1-8, Mark 6:14-29; Saturday, Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 8-14

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Job 7:1-4, 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23, Mark 1:29-39; Monday, Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; Tuesday (St. Scholastica), Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; Wednesday (Our Lady of Lourdes), Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; Thursday, Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; Friday, Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; Saturday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius), Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10.

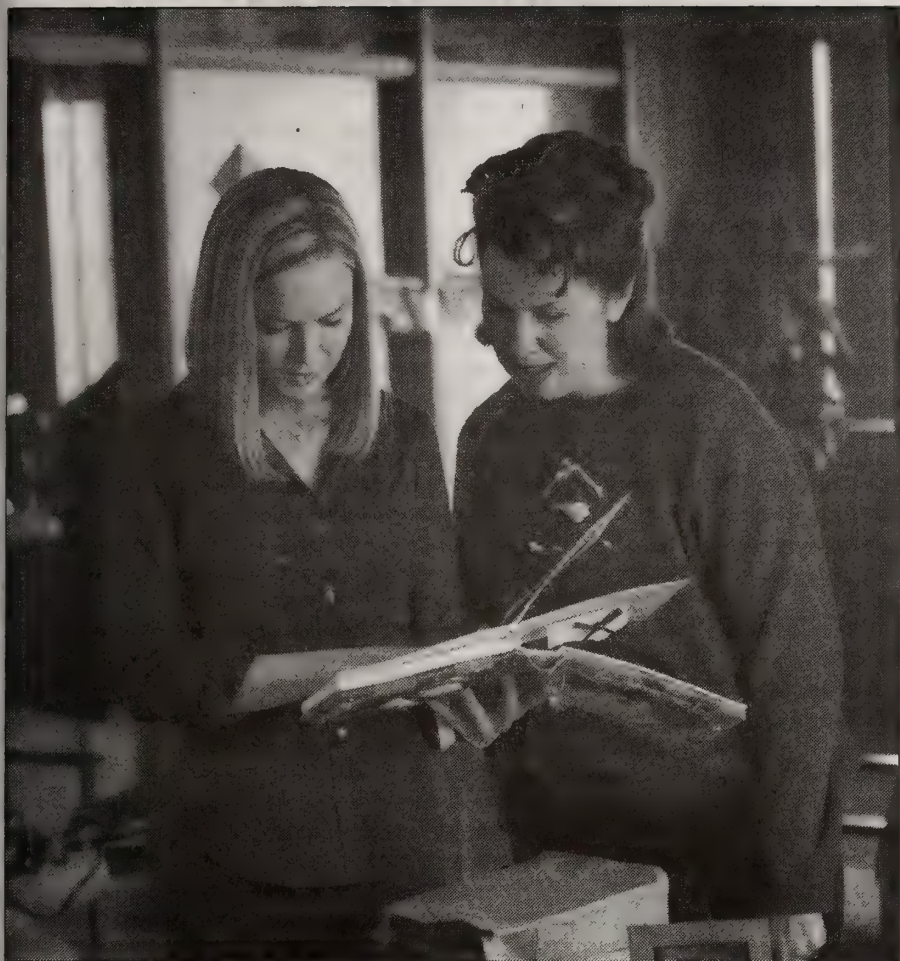


TO ALL GRADUATES OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL

Come and reconnect with fellow alumni, staff and students of the Newman Catholic Student Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Meet our special guest — CONNOR BARTH, past outstanding kicker for the UNC-CH football team who now plays for the Kansas City Chiefs.

All graduates and their families who live in the Greensboro/Winston-Salem area are encouraged to come and socialize with fellow graduates on Sunday, February 8 — 3pm to 5pm. Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
2205 W. Market St., Greensboro



CNS PHOTO BY LIONSGATE

Renee Zellweger and Siobhan Fallon Hogan star in the movie "New in Town." Hogan, who grew up in a small town in the Diocese of Syracuse N.Y., has a master's degree from the theater program at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Catholic actress Hogan likes roles, pace of her career

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — You probably would not recognize Siobhan Fallon Hogan by name, although you might have spotted her in a few landmark screen hits.

She had a recurring role three times on TV's "Seinfeld" and a role in the movie "Men in Black," spent one year as a member of the "Saturday Night Live" cast and, last year, played the part of a birthing instructor who sounds a lot like cartoon character Elmer Fudd in the film comedy "Baby Mama."

From "Baby Mama," Hogan landed a role in the new romantic comedy "New in Town," starring Renee Zellweger and Harry Connick Jr.

But Hogan, who described herself as being the "goof" of her Irish-American Catholic family when she was growing up, doesn't take a lot of roles. For one thing, she's the mother of three children in a Catholic school in New Jersey.

"I like to work on projects as they come (and) finish them. If I work only a couple of months out of the year, it works for me. My agent won't let me read that, but it's true," she said.

For another, Hogan routinely rejects roles she finds at odds with her faith.

"I get scripts and when I read them, I think, 'I can't believe they're going to make this,'" she said.

Hogan added that she rarely sees the film or TV projects she has passed up.

"I have very few regrets on those. No — I have no regrets on things I did not do," she said.

Hogan grew up in a small town in the Syracuse Diocese that had no Catholic school. But she got her bachelor's degree from Jesuit-run Le Moyne College in Syracuse, then

got a master's degree from the theater program at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Her one season on "Saturday Night Live," 1991-92, was different from what she had expected.

"I'm not a stand-up comedian, I'm an actress," she said. "It was really competitive. It was the 'Wayne's World' time," referring to a recurring sketch that starred Mike Myers and Dana Carvey.

"Women got only one sketch per show," she said. "You had to claw your way to the top. I'm not a fighter. You either get me or you don't."

Still, "SNL," as it is popularly called, proved to be "a great platform" for landing movie and TV roles, according to Hogan. It also put her in good stead for the "Baby Mama" role.

Hogan had played on "30 Rock," which stars "SNL" alum Tina Fey, who was going to be in a lead role in "Baby Mama." In addition, "SNL" creator Lorne Michaels was executive producer of the movie. In "Baby Mama," Hogan stole the scenes she was in, even a deleted scene included in the DVD version of the film that's now out.

Hogan likes her role in "New in Town." She plays an executive assistant to Zellweger's character, a corporate executive sent by her company to its plant in a small Minnesota town where she might have to cut jobs or close it.

"I play a Christian ... and there's a great scene when the town comes together to save the cheese factory," Hogan said.

Of her co-star Connick, she noted. "Oh, he's a Catholic. He sang for the pope."

Last April Connick performed two pieces he composed for an event with Pope Benedict XVI when the pontiff came to the U.S.

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Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) is the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). For 34 years, ORB has called participants to pray with their families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about our global CRS community and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

The theme of this year's ORB, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25, is "Solidarity Will Transform the World."

Parishes and schools participating in ORB will distribute ORB items (or will post notices stating where such items can be picked up) prior to Ash Wednesday. Catholic parishes and schools that have not received 2009 ORB Lenten materials yet expected to do so, or parishes that want to order 2009 ORB Lenten materials, should call 1-800-222-0025. Learn More about Operation Rice Bowl at <http://orb.crs.org/>.



At the start of the New Year, then, I extend to every disciple of Christ and to every person of good will a warm invitation to expand their hearts to meet the needs of the poor and to take whatever practical steps are possible in order to help them. The truth of the axiom cannot be refuted: "to fight poverty is to build peace." (Pope Benedict XVI, 2009 World Day of Peace Message)

Spelling success



COURTESY PHOTO

Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, sits with Ify Ogu, second-place winner of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools spelling bee, and John Galapon, first-place winner. Ify and John, both students at St. Matthew School in Charlotte, participated in the bee at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte Jan. 14. Fifteen fourth- through eighth-grade students from seven schools in the MACS system competed.

John will go on to compete in the Charlotte Observer Spelling Bee, which will be held at ImaginOn in Charlotte Feb. 2. Winners from that competition will move on to the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C., May 24.

Great geography



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the students who competed in the school National Geographic Bee for fourth through eighth grades at St. Michael School in Gastonia Jan. 22.

From left are fifth-grader Didier Rojas, seventh-grader Alex Bidoglio (third-place winner), eighth-grader Jack Rosemond (first-place winner), sixth-grader Connor Linden (second-place winner) and fourth-grader Drew Robinson.

Jack Rosemond advanced to a written test to qualify for the semi-finals to be held in Raleigh in February. Winners from that competition will move on to the national competition in Washington, D. C.

Let the games begin

MACS Academic Games tournament to be held in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Students in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system have been busy preparing for the 2009 MACS Academic Games.

Students from the 2009 MACS Academic Games teams gathered for a practice tournament at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte Dec. 20.

The team is comprised of 30 students — fourth- and fifth-graders from Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Gabriel and St. Patrick schools and sixth-graders from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

The teams will compete in the two-day tournament at Our Lady of the Assumption School Jan. 31 and Feb. 7.

The 10 top-performing students and

two alternates will go on to compete in the National Academic Games Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn., April 24-27.

The Academic Games program was introduced at Our Lady of the Assumption School in 1994 as a way to enhance school curriculum by providing an arena in which students engage in intellectual play with ideas drawn from language, logic, mathematics and social life.

Participating students are provided opportunities to excel academically and compete at local, regional and national levels.

Other schools in the MACS system participating in the games include All Saints School in Charlotte and St. Mark School in Huntersville.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from the 2009 MACS Academic Games Team are pictured during a practice tournament at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte Dec. 20. The team is made up of 30 students — fourth- and fifth-graders from Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Gabriel and St. Patrick schools and sixth-graders from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

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To help or to harm?

Claims on embryonic stem-cell trials said to ignore other progress

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Reports touting recent approval of human clinical trials of a treatment for spinal-cord injuries using embryonic stem cells ignore the "great strides" already being made using adult stem cells, according to leaders of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

"News stories are playing up the potential of the use of embryonic stem cells, as they have been for nearly a decade, despite the lack of significant progress," said an unsigned commentary posted Jan. 26 on the Web site of the Philadelphia-based bioethics center.

But adult stem cells "are already in extensive clinical use," the commentary added.

Geron Corp. in Menlo Park, Calif., announced Jan. 23 that the Food and Drug Administration had approved human clinical tests in paralyzed patients with acute spinal cord injury, using a stem-cell treatment developed from destroyed human embryos.

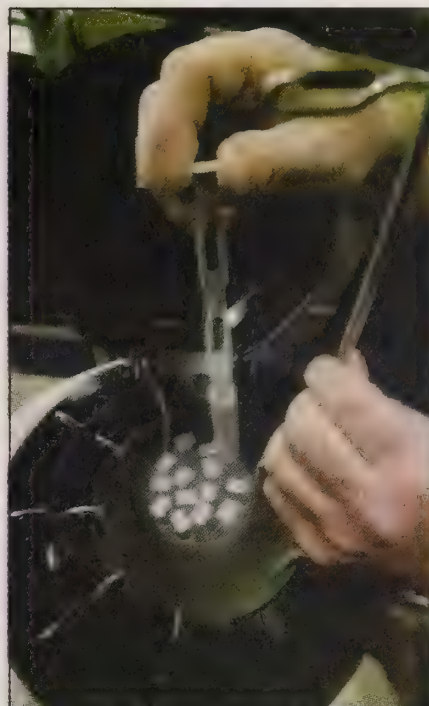
The stem-cell line used to develop the treatment came from embryos that had already been destroyed before former President George W. Bush's 2001 announcement barring federal funding of any stem-cell research involving embryos destroyed after the date of Bush's decision.

Dr. Thomas Okarma, president and CEO of Geron, said the FDA approval "marks the beginning of what is potentially a new chapter in medical therapeutics — one that reaches beyond pills to a new level of healing: the restoration of organ and tissue function achieved by the injection of healthy replacement cells."

The clinical trials, expected to begin this summer, would involve eight to 10 patients with "documented evidence of functionally complete spinal cord injury" who would receive injections between seven and 14 days after the injury.

Up to seven U.S. medical centers were expected to participate in the trials.

After the injections, patients would be measured for any improvement in



CNS PHOTO BY SANDY HUFFAKER

An embryologist removes frozen embryos from a storage tank at the Smotrich IVF Clinic in La Jolla, Calif., in this 2007 file photo.

bowel or bladder function, return of sensation or leg movement.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center commentary said embryonic stem cells "are not genetic matches for the patients in whom they are injected," thus requiring the use of dangerous anti-rejection drugs.

"Few are reporting that cells with the same properties and potential as the embryonic are now available through the process of 'differentiation,'" the commentary added, referring to the creation of induced pluripotent stem

"News stories are playing up the potential of the use of embryonic stem cells ... despite the lack of significant progress."

— National Catholic Bioethics Center

cells from cells taken directly from the patient.

The so-called IPS cells could be used to regenerate heart tissue or brain cells, and even to treat spinal injuries.

Despite the problems with rejection and the progress shown with IPS cells, "scientists continue to claim that embryonic stem cells are the 'gold standard' in the field of regenerative medicine," the bioethics center commentary said.

"Stem-cell research is the only scientific discipline where the paradigm for success is a procedure that does not work, and where other avenues that have proven successful are found wanting because they fail to live up to that defective standard," it added.

Some observers said it was significant that FDA approval for Geron's trials came three days into the administration of President Barack Obama, who has said he would overturn Bush's ban on federal funding of stem-cell research involving the destruction of new embryos.

But the approval was coincidental, according to officials at the FDA and Geron.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The art of being yourself

We are all carriers of God's love and joy

When the pet dog of a 7-year-old girl died suddenly, she was naturally very upset. The next day the adults around her were talking about the relatively short life that dogs have in relation to humans. They wondered why.

After a pause the little girl spoke up, "All of God's creatures reflect God's beauty and goodness, but dogs are able to do it sooner than humans, so God invites them to heaven quicker."

What an interesting idea!

In Genesis 1:26, we learn that we are made in God's image. That means we are meant to reflect his love and joy in our lives. But do we?

The art of being what you were created to be is not that easy for humans. Living in God's life is the way we reflect his love and joy.

The Augustinian formula for giving out holy Communion expresses this well: "Receive what you are, the body of Christ."

By being yourself, you can begin to see yourself as a radiation of God's life. By immersing yourself in his being, you become a kind of incarnation in your own right. This gives you an advantage in trying to transcend the many irksome difficulties that life imposes.

For instance, your heart may be heavy, carrying memories that tend to weigh you down. Instead of letting those memories defeat you, you can give them to God.

You can throw them overboard into the vast purifying waters of the ocean. God will clean your mind of negativity and anger, and empower you to let go of needless worry.

If you don't believe me, talk to any of the recovering addicts and alcoholics who have learned to move on in their lives. Doing this becomes a little easier when you decide that you don't have to take care of all the justice issues all by yourself.

God will do that for you, and with

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



the burden lightened you can better enjoy each day as a unique gift of love.

You will soon become who you really are, a carrier of God's love and joy!

Of course your emotions won't cooperate all at once, but if you get the basic theology straight, you can learn to be happy in God's happiness here and now.

St. Catherine of Siena said, "All the way to heaven is heaven."

"So don't look back, and don't allow negative thoughts to defeat you. Be your true self.

St. Teresa of Avila used to repeat to herself this mantra: "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing cause you fear. Patience obtains all. God is unchanging love. God alone suffices."

It takes some people a little longer to understand this idea, but when they do, when they surrender to something greater than themselves, they do just fine.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Try to follow her example. Try to magnify God's love in this world by being who you are.

Feel yourself being blessed by God. Believe that you are a special creation because you are a part of God's holy life. Then decide to see God's beauty in everything, including yourself.

Let his eternal joy fill your soul, and learn to enjoy your precious life.

Demanding 'personhood now'

Pro-life advocates must make enough noise for truth to be heard

Many years ago, when I was a seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa., I was in line at the Acme grocery store check-out discussing a book with a fellow seminarian — it was "Horton Hears a Who!" by Dr. Seuss.

The book tells the story of Horton the Elephant who, on the 15th of May in the jungle of Nool, hears a small speck of dust talking to him. As the story unfolds, we discover the speck of dust is actually a tiny planet, home to a city called Whoville, inhabited by microscopic creatures known as Whos.

The Whos ask Horton to protect them from harm, which Horton happily agrees to do, proclaiming throughout the book that "a person's a person no matter how small." In doing so he is ridiculed and persecuted by the other animals in the jungle for believing in something that they are unable to see or hear.

In the end, Horton is vindicated when each member of the Whoville society plays a part in making enough noise that the jungle can finally hear the sound, thus reinforcing the moral that "a person's a person no matter how small."

My fellow seminarian and I were debating about the pro-life message contained in the story when a woman in line ahead of us turned around and interrupted, "How could you possibly interpret that story in that way? You're just reading that into a simple children's story." The woman was clearly aggravated that this children's story could be interpreted with such an unambiguously pro-life message. She is not alone.

The Wikipedia reference for the book mentions that several pro-life groups have adopted the phrase "a person's a person no matter how small" in defense of the pro-life message. However, Audrey Geisel, Dr. Seuss's widow, "doesn't like people to hijack Dr. Seuss characters or material to front their own points of view."

Both women — the anonymous woman at the grocery store and Audrey Geisel — clearly do not want to admit the obvious connection between the fictitious story and the reality of the pro-life message

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



in the midst of the culture of death. It takes little imagination to make the connection between these two, particularly when we consider that at the heart of the pro-life message is the truth that "a person's a person no matter how small."

Abortion advocates have already conceded their position necessitates that abortion doesn't eliminate a person (in their opinion), but a mass of impersonal cells. However, as science and medical technology have already proven, it takes more imagination to assume that, from the moment of conception, the mass of living and growing cells is not an individual person than to concede it actually is.

"Horton Hears a Who!" exposes the disturbing issue that lies beneath the surface of the abortion debate and indeed reveals the more profound problem that pervades our fallen world: the depersonalization of the human person.

It is, in fact, the same unsavory issue that motivates the proliferation of pornography, prostitution and human trafficking, homosexuality, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research and a host of other evils that strip the human being of personhood.

Thankfully, many persons are beginning to defend the issue that underlies the pro-life movement. At the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, I read signs that contained the message attributed to Horton the Elephant — "A person's a person no matter how small" — and other signs that demanded: "PERSONHOOD NOW."

Personhood lies at the foundation of the pro-life message. Perhaps if those of us who know this truth, and indeed live this truth, will make enough noise, those who refuse to acknowledge the reality of personhood may soon be converted.

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Inspired by faith

I just wanted to share how much my 4-year old daughter, Sara, and I enjoyed reading about Patrick Veilla ("With blind ambition: Deafblind man overcomes disabilities to serve God," Jan. 16).

Just a few days before seeing the article, I was sharing with Sara the stories of Helen Keller and Ann Sullivan. She now wants to make a book for the blind.

Patrick's faith and his mother's faith are incredibly inspiring. Thank you for the article, and I pray for Patrick's further discernment either as a priest or other vocation. No doubt he will continue to inspire with his faith.

— Beth Windsor
Pinnacle, N.C.

Letters to the Editor

Perspectives appreciated

Kudos to Anita Veyera's guest column, "A perspective on spiritual parenting" (Jan. 16). The faithful need to be reminded that our priests administer to so many people that the idea of being biological fathers would be impractical.

And how true it is that they "have legacies that live in the hearts of the faithful long after they are gone." So many of us have fond memories of the various priests who have touched our lives. Nice job!

— Diana Ross
Charlotte

Seeking peace among us

After reading the commentary from my fellow Catholics in The Catholic News & Herald over the past four months, and especially during the U.S. election, I can no longer be silent.

If we are to achieve our universal vision for what human life should be on this planet, it will come only through love and the example we present to others. Let there be peace among us and let us focus our energies on love and in lifting each other up.

— David Matvey
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottdiocese.org.

Serving 'Jesus incognito'

DSA a way to proclaim Christ, serve his people

A former pastor once promoted the Diocese of Charlotte's Diocesan Support Appeal by saying we are serving "Jesus incognito" when we give to the annual appeal.

He even went so far as to use specific examples.

The person who goes to Catholic Social Services for counseling following the death of her husband is really "Jesus incognito."

The refugee escaping persecution in his homeland is really "Jesus incognito."

The poor and hungry who come to food pantries for assistance are — once again — "Jesus incognito."

This image of "Jesus incognito" remains with me long after the priest moved on to another parish. And the theme of this year's DSA, "Proclaiming Christ through Service," reminds me of that image, too.

In my job of promoting the DSA over the years, I've had many opportunities to meet the people who were "Jesus incognito." Some were young seminarians eager to serve the people of the diocese as parish priests.

Others were catechetical leaders entrusted with the mission of teaching our children in the ways of the faith.

I've met prisoners and prison chaplains, grieving families and counselors, adoptive families and social workers, eager immigrants and Hispanic ministry coordinators.

That image of "Jesus incognito" was applicable in every case.

Over the years, my job has taken me from one end of the 46-county diocese to the other. It took me to a cow pasture outside of Murphy where I met a young man, Todd, who was able to start a cattle farm thanks to a matching grant from Catholic Social Services' Office of Economic Opportunity.

It took me to Asheville, where I met two delightful and energetic children adopted through Catholic Social Services.

In Morganton, I was privileged to witness a spirit-filled gathering of prayer, song and leadership formation, thanks to the work of the Hispanic coordinator.

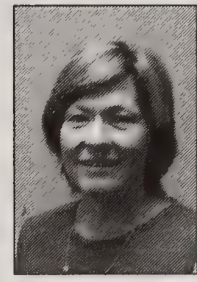
I have witnessed the great work being done by Catholic campus ministers at Western Carolina University, North Carolina A&T State University, High Point University, Brevard College and Wake Forest University.

Yes, my job has opened my eyes to searching for "Jesus incognito." I have seen Jesus not only in the person of those being served, but also in the person of those doing the serving.

We are all called to be "Jesus

Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY
GUEST COLUMNIST



incognito" for others and, at the very same time, we are expected to see Jesus in everyone we serve. In that regard, I feel confident that our contributions to the DSA really do "Proclaim Christ through Service."

The 2009 DSA runs Feb. 1 through March 8. Won't you too help "Jesus incognito"?

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of the diocesan development office.



Fighting poverty in the Diocese of Charlotte

CCHD invests in people's dignity, helps fund solutions

As we exit the month of January, a month which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designated as "Poverty in America Awareness Month," it is worthwhile to reflect on how people in the Diocese of Charlotte are addressing the problems of poverty.

A prime resource in the war on poverty as well as social injustice is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Established in 1970 by the U.S. bishops, CCHD is one of the largest private funders of self-help programs initiated and led by poor people in the nation.

It works for the end of poverty and injustice in the United States by investing in the dignity of people living below the poverty line and supporting community efforts to create permanent, systemic solutions.

Last year, thanks to the generous contributions of parishioners across the Diocese of Charlotte, \$65,000 in national grants and \$45,000 in local grants were extended to 24 organizations. A snapshot book at several recipients of these funds provides good examples of the effective use of CCHD funds.

In Charlotte, St. Peter's Homes (operating as McCreesh Place) helps men with disabilities transition from homelessness to permanent, affordable housing by giving them access to the support services they need.

In this way, single men who have been marginalized by economic barriers — such as low or no income and lack of transportation — as well as emotional barriers are provided opportunities to once again fully participate in their community and society.

Near Winston-Salem, the national office of the Newborns in Need organization assists low-income mothers in caring for their babies by providing health care supplies for babies in crisis due to health problems or poverty; it also educates mothers in finding local resources to support them in caring for their infants.

Sam Safrit, a Newborns in Need board member, said, "The CCHD grant came at the best possible time and helped us establish new partnerships to make dramatic growth in our outreach possible during this past year. Thank you so much for helping us help the babies."

In Franklin, the Perpetual Health Medical Clinic operates as a nonprofit, self-sustaining, community-supported family medical practice that serves the uninsured and those not qualifying for government programs.

Guest Column

MARY JANE BRUTON
GUEST COLUMNIST



It incorporates the efforts of local volunteers and the service recipients themselves in making the clinic work.

Extending a community approach to the problems of the poor is where CCHD funds find one of their most effective outlets — by helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives.

CCHD supports projects nationwide that know no racial or religious boundaries — projects that help create jobs, improve neighborhoods and allow people to find a way out of poverty, not just for a day but for a lifetime.

Across our diocese, as across the nation, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development continues to be a formidable weapon in the fight against poverty.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the CCHD program is housed within Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace. For further information, please call (704) 370-3234 or e-mail mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

Bruton is program director with Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pastors need to be strong, loving fathers of God's many children, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI prayed that Christians would treat all people lovingly as members of God's one family and that pastors would be strong yet tender fathers of the Christian community.

"Christians are no longer strangers or guests, but fellow citizens with the saints and family members of the household of God," the pope said Jan. 28 at his weekly general audience.

The Christian community is also open to everyone, as all people are capable of knowing the truth of God's love and message of salvation, he said.

With an estimated 4,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on his letters to Timothy and Titus — also known as the pastoral epistles.

Even though the Christian community was still quite small at the time the pastoral epistles were written, its universality was strongly emphasized, said the pope.

Christianity is "a living faith open to everyone and gives witness to God's love for all people," he said.

Therefore, Christians are "to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, exercising all graciousness toward everyone," he said quoting from St. Paul's Letter to Titus.

The letters "present the church in very human terms as God's household, a family in which the bishop acts with the authority of a father," he said.

In his First Letter to Timothy, St. Paul lists detailed traits and qualities needed for the office of bishop. These included such things as being temperate, self-disciplined, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, having a good reputation among non-Christians and being fatherly, said the pope.

He prayed that the church's bishops and priests increasingly take on more fatherly feelings for their flocks and be "loving and strong fathers who build up God's house, the Christian community and the church."

The pope also asked that the Christian faithful increasingly show a loving attitude for other people in society and treat everyone as members of God's family.

At the end of his audience talk, Pope Benedict was treated to a festive juggling act by members of the Italian Medrano circus troupe.



CNS PHOTO BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA/CATHOLIC SUN

Brenda Alexandra Marcos, 3, walks down the stairs at a shelter run by the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist in Nogales, Mexico, Jan. 18. The shelter serves women and children who have been deported by U.S. officials. It is part of the Jesuits' binational Kino Border Initiative launched in mid-January.

Breaking down barriers

Jesuits seek deeper understanding of immigration with border project

BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NOGALES, Mexico — When Leoba Marcos crossed the Sonoran desert earlier this year, she didn't know what to expect.

She made her way in early January with a group of about 20, including her husband, 13-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter. It was the second time Marcos had crossed the U.S.-Mexican border illegally.

This time, she crossed via Sonoita, a Mexican border town south of Lukeville, Ariz. The group, led by a smuggler, had walked about six hours before U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended them.

"They were hiding," Marcos said, shaking her head. "We didn't say anything and we didn't run. They just took us to a detention center."

Marcos and her children were deported to Nogales, but her husband was deported to Mexicali — more than a five-hour drive away. While she waited for her husband, Marcos and her children found refuge in a shelter for deported women and children run by the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist.

The sisters are part of the Kino Border Initiative, a binational effort headed up by the California province of the Society of Jesus. The joint effort will staff a care center for a growing number of deported migrants, serve as a contact point for numerous humanitarian organizations working on the border and educate the community on immigration issues.

"The Kino Border Initiative is an important step in responding to the deportation of those who have been asked to leave the country — to make sure that their departure is safe, that they are cared for," said Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., during a Jan. 18 press conference at Sacred Heart Church in Nogales.

The initiative will work closely with the bishops of the Diocese of Tucson and Mexico's Archdiocese of Hermosillo, as well as with Jesuit Refugee Service.

Jesuit Father John McGarry, California provincial, said the effort takes on the spirit of the man for whom it is named, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, a 17th-century Jesuit missionary who served in Sonora.

"We Jesuits are committed to the poor, the immigrant, the disenfranchised," he said. "The beginning of this new ministry and service to the church and to people in need is a concrete sign to that commitment."

The initiative will study immigration on the border and document migrants' stories from their journey to the border to their capture by the Border Patrol.

"The complex issue of immigration is first and foremost about people — God's people and their lives, their dignity and their livelihood," he said.

The initiative "is designed to accompany the migrant people, especially those deported and alone, to serve them and help them, particularly women and children," he said.

"The women who have come here to stay have been abandoned."

— Araceli Wedington,
immigrant

Araceli Wedington tried entering the United States illegally when she was eight months pregnant. She was trying to make it back to her family in Kansas. Two of her children live there with her husband, a U.S. citizen.

She unexpectedly received divorce papers while she was in Mexico and hastened her return. She crossed alone.

When she came across a group, she would first hide and then follow at a distance. Wedington, who first crossed in Tijuana five years ago, knew that many border crossers are robbed and many women are raped.

At one point on the journey, Wedington fell and, fearing she was going into labor, sat near a highway and waited for the Border Patrol to find her. She was taken to the hospital, but deported before having the baby.

"I wanted to be (in Kansas), but they didn't accept my story," she said of the Border Patrol agents. "I wanted to speak to my husband, but they didn't believe me."

Wedington found her way to the sisters' women's shelter in Nogales and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Victor Emmanuel.

To get to the shelter, she climbs four stories of dusty, concrete steps. The apartment itself has a common area, a small kitchen and two bedrooms — each crammed with two sets of bunk beds.

"The women who have come to stay here have been abandoned; they're hungry and thirsty and they have blisters on their feet," Wedington said.

"When the women arrive, they don't know what to do. They don't have any money; they don't have any food and their families don't know what's become of them."

The women's shelter, Wedington said, gives women a chance to think and reflect on what they will do next. For deported migrants, just being there is a focus for the Kino Border Initiative.

"A lot of people are suffering," said Jesuit Father Sean Carroll, executive director of the initiative.

He noted an increased number of deportees finding their way to care centers where deported migrants can get hot meals and help with medical needs.

"We're serving a lot of people," he said. "We want to respond to them and relieve that suffering, and through that we hope to also be transformed."

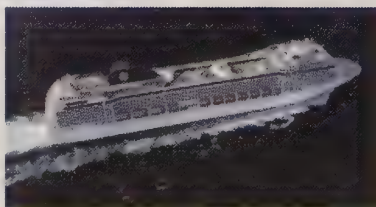
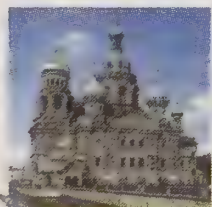
Father Cayetano Cabrera, pastor of Cristo Rey Parish in Nogales, said U.S. economic troubles are pushing many migrants back to Mexico. But, he said, those who return don't find work in Mexico either.

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Perspectives

Catholic approach to
Internet addiction; faith amid
sickness; letters to editor

| PAGES 14-15

Confronting a gang culture

Diocesan youth
ministry takes
pro-active approach
to emerging problem

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — As
times change, so too must the
pastoral approach of diocesan
ministries.

In the Diocese of Charlotte,
the Youth Ministry Office is
continually adapting to address
the latest developments and
concerns in its field.

The most recent effort
to tackle an emerging trend
affecting youths in the diocese
is the addition of a gang
education and prevention
resource to the Diocesan Youth
Ministry Handbook.

"Early last year I was

See GANGS, page 4

Catholic concerns

Obama administration
gets advice from
Catholic social thinkers

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The
near collapse of the world's
financial institutions in
September 2008, propelled
President Barack Obama to
the White House, but also will
likely constrain what he is able
to accomplish on his agenda
for change, a Georgetown
University professor said in a
presentation at The Catholic
University of America.

See OBAMA, page 7

Reflecting on the 'unpredictable power of evil'



CNS PHOTO BY PETER ANDREWS, REUTERS

Concentration camp survivors walk out of the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp that bears the infamous phrase "Arbeit Macht Frei," which means "work sets you free," in Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27. Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated internationally Jan. 27, the anniversary of the date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945.

See JEWS, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten student Patrick Esposito and sixth-grader Christina Verdi of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point deliver cookies and a "thank you" card to firefighters Jan. 26 as part of Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic schools in diocese 'celebrate service'

Catholic Schools Week highlights service aspect
of Catholic education

CHARLOTTE — The 18
Catholic schools in the Diocese
of Charlotte recently celebrated
Catholic Schools Week.

Students, principals,
parents and faculty took part in
the Jan. 25-31 observance, this
year themed "Catholic Schools
Celebrate Service."

Civic engagement is a hall-
mark of Catholic education,"
said Karen Ristau, president
of the National Catholic

Educational Association.

"The majority of
elementary and secondary
schools participate in service
projects ... so it was natural that
we choose service as a major
theme," she said.

The 2009 theme linked to
a recently completed NCEA
initiative, "Birthday Blessings

See CSW, page 8

Curlin Commons

Groundbreaking held for low-
income senior apartments

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch

Vatican launches YouTube
channel; pope on Facebook

| PAGES 10-11

Unholy smoke

Fire damages roof of
Chicago cathedral

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PATRIARCHAL PLEDGES



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill raises the cross during his enthronement service in Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow Feb. 1. Patriarch Kirill, the new leader of the world's 160 million Russian Orthodox, pledged to keep his church united, recruit the young and dialogue with "sister churches."

Pope sends message, chalice to new Russian Orthodox patriarch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI gave a chalice to the new patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and expressed his hope that Catholics and Russian Orthodox can improve their relationship.

"It is my earnest hope that we will continue to cooperate in finding ways to foster and strengthen communion in the body of Christ in fidelity to our savior's prayer that all may be one so that the world may believe," the pope said.

Pope Benedict's message to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow was delivered by a high-level Vatican delegation attending his enthronement liturgy in Moscow Feb. 1. The pope also sent Patriarch Kirill a chalice as a sign of his hope that the Catholic and Orthodox churches soon will be in full communion with each other, the Vatican said Feb. 2.

Patriarch Kirill, 62, was elected patriarch Jan. 27 after serving almost 20 years as chairman of the Russian Orthodox Church's department for ecumenical relations. In that position, he had met Pope Benedict three times over the past four years.

Pope Benedict said that the new patriarch, as the head of ecumenical relations, "played an outstanding role in forging a new relationship between our churches, a relationship based on friendship, mutual acceptance and sincere dialogue in facing the difficulties of our common journey."

While Catholic and Russian Orthodox leaders had frequent contacts over the past 20 years, the Russian Orthodox repeatedly said relations had not progressed far enough to make

a meeting between the pope and the patriarch appropriate.

The tensions between the two churches arose mainly from the re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and of Roman Catholic dioceses in the territories of the former Soviet Union once religious freedom was restored.

Despite the tensions, Pope Benedict said in his message, there has been a spirit of openness and cooperation with the Catholic Church "for the defense of Christian values in Europe and in the world. I am certain that Your Holiness will continue to build on this solid foundation for the good of your people and for the benefit of Christians everywhere."

The Vatican delegation to Patriarch Kirill's enthronement was led by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

After meeting privately with Patriarch Kirill Feb. 2, Cardinal Kasper told Vatican Radio that the new Russian Orthodox leader thanked the pope for his message and for the chalice and gave the cardinal a letter to deliver to the pope.

"He said he wanted to continue the approach begun by his predecessor in relations between our two churches," the cardinal said, particularly affirming the need for the churches to give people moral guidance and hope in the midst of the global financial crisis.

"Patriarch Kirill added that our dialogue also touches on the unity of the church, on ideological problems, because that which we hold in common regarding social issues is based on and rooted in our common faith," the cardinal said.

Malaysian official tells non-Muslims not to challenge Islam

KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia (CNS) — Amid a dispute over the use of the word "Allah" in a Malaysian Catholic newspaper, a government official has warned non-Muslim leaders not to "challenge the sacredness of Islam."

Mingguan Malaysia, the Sunday edition of the Utusan Malaysia daily, reported the remarks of Ahmad Zahid Hamidi warning non-Muslim leaders not to raise issues that anger Muslims.

Utusan Malaysia is owned by United Malays National Organization, the race-based political party that leads the coalition federal government.

For the past few years, the Herald, a Catholic weekly, has been engaged in a dispute with the government over its use of Allah for God. The Home Affairs Ministry has said that Allah refers exclusively to the god of Islam.

Zahid said such problems would not arise if all parties recognize that Islam is the official religion of the country.

The official said he suspects "a

certain agenda" in the Herald controversy, since non-Muslims are forbidden from proselytizing Muslims in the country.

"Do not play with fire. Do not challenge the Muslims. We will do anything to protect our holy religion," he said.

The newspaper report also cited comments by a Catholic government official, Bernard Dompok.

According to the Sarawak Talk Web site, Dompok urged the Home Affairs Ministry Jan. 24 to stop "harassing" the Herald. Calling it an unnecessary controversy, he said the ministry should just let the courts decide on the matter since a hearing is pending. The High Court has set Feb. 27 for the hearing.

The Herald is a small newspaper with a circulation of 14,000 copies. It is sold only in Catholic churches and carries the word "terhad," which means limited, on the front page of every edition in compliance with a Home Affairs Ministry requirement.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a special Mass for the sanctity of life at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Don Franz at (828) 697-8194.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An education event for adults coping with the death of a parent will be held in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Feb. 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Presenter will be Janice Olive from Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, contact BJ at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February, 6:30-8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. For more information, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics" will take

place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the second and fourth Mondays of the month, beginning Feb. 9 and ending May 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Topics will include: a biography of Pope Benedict and fundamentals of Christianity; the church (two sessions); liturgy; Mary; Scripture interpretation; truth, conscience and freedom; and the church and politics. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to attend an upcoming *Theology on Tap* series, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert." This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizzeria/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. The second session will take place Feb. 19. The topic, "Holy Thursday and the Last Supper" will be presented by Father Patrick Toole. Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be Feb. 21. The topic will be "God's Inner Life." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m. For more information, contact

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Classes are free, but registration is required. Call for the schedule as

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FEBRUARY 6, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 14

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says love, not euthanasia, eases the suffering of the dying

No tear goes unnoticed by God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Love is the only thing that can ease the suffering of the terminally ill and it is the only worthy response of those who value the life that is ending, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Christians must have the courage to say publicly and clearly that "euthanasia is a false solution to the drama of suffering, a solution unworthy of the human person," the pope said Feb. 1 during his midday Angelus address.

Marking the Italian Catholic Church's celebration of Pro-Life Sunday, the pope said helping a terminally ill person die might give the impression of easing that individual's suffering, but the only authentically human response to

the suffering of another is the witness of "love that helps one face pain and agony in a human way."

"Of this we are certain: No tear — not of one who suffers, nor of one who is near to that person — goes unnoticed by God," Pope Benedict said.

The pope entrusted to Mary all those who are suffering and all those who care for them, "serving life at every stage: parents, health care workers, priests, religious, researchers, volunteers and many others."

Mary understands suffering and what it means to watch a loved one suffer, the pope said, because she shared the painful hour of her son's Passion and Crucifixion, sustained by hope in the Resurrection.

classes will not be held on certain dates. For more information, call Nettie Watkins at the Allegro Foundation (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

MINT HILL — A Lenten preparation program for adults will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Saturday afternoons during Lent from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The first session will be Feb. 28. Sister Veronica Grover will lead the study on the documents and teachings of the church and how we can relate these to modern times. Donations of canned goods will be collected to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 545-1224.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A lecture by Gerald Malsbary on *Liberal Arts Education and the Rational Virtue Ethics of St. Thomas Aquinas* will be presented by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mezzanine of the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. A social hour with wine and cheese will follow the presentation. To register, call (704) 461-5097 or e-mail robertpreston@bac.edu. For more information, visit www.bradleyinstitute.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Free Spanish classes, beginner and advanced, will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. The classes will run for eight weeks. All materials will be furnished. For more information or to register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail hkwan@lexcominc.net

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host *HOSEA (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again)* for those who have been away from the faith and are interested in getting reacquainted with the Catholic Church. The sessions will be held 7:15-9 p.m. every Wednesday for six weeks beginning Feb. 11. Come and have your questions answered. For more information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097 or call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — An open house for students and parents interested in the Eagle's Nest kindergarten-readiness program at Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Feb. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m. Tours and admission information will be available. For more information, call (336) 887-2613.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — In an effort to give practical help to married and engaged couples to live out the teaching of the church, a course in natural family planning will be held Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Natural family planning is medically safe, morally acceptable and highly effective. Share the responsibility for birth regulation. NFP is inexpensive, reversible and can be helpful for couples of marginal fertility who hope to achieve pregnancy. For more information and registration, call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope says labor unions important in resolving financial crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said labor unions have an important role to play in finding a way out of the global financial crisis and establishing a new culture of solidarity and responsibility in the marketplace.

"The great challenge and the great opportunity posed by today's worrisome economic crisis is to find a new synthesis between the common good and the market, between capital and labor. And in this regard, union organizations can make a significant contribution," the pope told directors of the Confederation of Italian Labor Unions Jan. 31.

The pope emphasized that the inalienable dignity of the worker has been a cornerstone of the church's social teaching in the modern age, and said this teaching has helped the movement toward fair wages, improvement of working conditions and protection of vulnerable categories of employees.

Workers are facing particular risks in the current economic crisis, and unions must be part of the solution, he said.

"In order to overcome the economic

and social crisis we're experiencing, we know that a free and responsible effort on the part of everyone is required," the pope said.

"In other words, it is necessary to overcome the interests of particular groups and sectors, in order to face together and in a united way the problems that are affecting every area of society, especially the world of labor," he said.

"Never has this need been felt so urgently. The problems tormenting the world of labor push toward an effective and closer arrangement between the many and diverse components of society," he said.

He noted that his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, had underlined labor as the key component in social questions and had described the labor union as an indispensable element of social life in modern industrialized societies.

Pope Benedict has been working on his first social encyclical, tentatively titled "Caritas in Veritate" ("Love in Truth"), which is expected to be published sometime this year.

Super players



CNS PHOTO BY GARY HERSHORN

Arizona Cardinals' wider receiver Larry Fitzgerald is tackled by Pittsburgh Steelers' Troy Polamalu during the NFL's Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 1. Father David Bonnar, secretary for parish life and ministerial leadership for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, said in 2006 that Polamalu exudes a gentle, humble spirit. Fitzgerald attended the Academy of the Holy Angels High School in Minneapolis. The Steelers defeated the Cardinals 27-23.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 7 (10:30 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Feb. 12 (7 p.m.)
Asheville Vicariate Respect Life Mass
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Feb. 18 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Feb. 20 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Youth ministry takes proactive approach to gangs

GANGS, from page 1

contacted by members of the youth ministry team in the Diocese of Charlotte who were concerned about some of their youths and the possibility that they were affiliated with a local gang," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry.

After researching the issue, Kotlowski realized "this is a problem that is not going to be going away."

He talked to local police officers and attended a community education night in Guilford County.

"That was incredibly eye opening," he said.

He then began searching for other Catholic dioceses and agencies that had written materials addressing the issue of gang involvement among youths. But his search did not turn up any results.

"I thought, 'somebody needs to make something,'" he said.

Kotlowski began developing a resource to educate youth leaders on the fundamentals of gangs and equip them with the tools they need to deal with the issue. The resource addresses issues such as warning signs, gang influence and gang structure. It contains anti-gang resources, a gang presence assessment tool and a prayer to end gangs.

After sending an electronic copy of the resource to youth ministers in the diocese, Kotlowski said the overall response was one of appreciation.

"They are thankful that the diocese is taking a pro-active approach to this emerging trend," he said.

"I thought it was a great idea to give us a tool to help us work with these teenagers," said Jeanine Marsilia, faith formation coordinator at St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville.

Marsilia was having problems with a few of the teens in the church's faith formation program.

"We started seeing destructive behaviors in our classrooms," she said.

A few of the youths had gang names tattooed on their hands and were wearing gang colors and bandanas to their faith formation classes.

But the biggest problem was that they were trying to recruit and intimidate other teens to join their gang.

"When you see behavior problems you need to deal with them promptly before it gets out of hand," said Marsilia, who ended up asking the gang members not to return to the classes.

"They are kids that are lost," she said. "They are struggling and they look to the gangs for structure."

"Some of them still can be helped," she added, but the real challenge is finding the right balance. "It's hard because you don't want it to affect the other children."

Marsilia said the resource has been helpful because it is something she can give to the parents.

Sharon Hoilett, faith formation

"If we have one kid who is in a gang, that is one kid too many."

— Paul Kotlowski, diocesan youth ministry director

director at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, also has found the resource helpful, although she hasn't had any direct problems with gang involvement among her youths.

After receiving the resource, Hoilett requested to schedule an in-service workshop — a follow-up service offered by the diocesan Youth Ministry Office.

"We haven't had any outward signs," she said, but "it is something that we need to talk about with our kids."

Hoilett said that the church has been warned by police about gangs in the neighborhood. They stressed "we should be careful with our kids because of activity that goes on in the area," she said.

The church has responded to the warning by adjusting the weekend faith formation schedule — eliminating the wait time between Mass and classes.

As a teacher for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Hoilett said that she "realizes the problems the kids face in the school system."

That was "one of the reasons I wanted someone to come out and talk to the kids," she said. "It's just another form of awareness."

On the diocesan level, Kotlowski said his plan is to "continue to raise consciousness, keep channels of communication open and continue to take a pro-active stance to confront problems as they emerge."

"The culture of gangs stands in direct contradiction to the culture of life," he said.

"We need to do whatever we can as a church to promote a culture of life, which means providing an alternative to destruction and evil."

"If we have one kid who is in a gang, that is one too many," said Kotlowski.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

To view a copy of the gang education and prevention resource, go to www.charlottediocese.org/ourservices-ym.



Diocesan youth ministry is partly funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.

Nothing common about it



COURTESY PHOTO BY R. WAYNE STOCKDALE

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin (third from left) and Bishop Peter J. Jugis are joined by Brian Flanagan, regional director of RBC Capital Markets; Jerry Widelksi, executive director of the diocesan Housing Corporation; Paul Woollard, executive director of the Affordable Housing Group of NC, Inc.; and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, during a groundbreaking ceremony for Curlin Commons in Mooresville Jan. 29.

Groundbreaking held for low-income senior apartments

MOORESVILLE — The Diocese of Charlotte is building affordable housing for the elderly.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis took part in a groundbreaking ceremony for Curlin Commons in Mooresville Jan. 29.

Curlin Commons is named for Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte, who served as bishop from 1994 until his retirement in 2002.

Curlin Commons is "a fitting tribute to a servant of God who continues to spend his life and ministry caring for the needs of others, especially the poor," said Bishop Jugis.

The 40-unit apartment building for low-income senior citizens is a project of the diocesan Housing Corporation and the Affordable Housing Group of NC, Inc.

The Housing Corporation is an outreach to create, promote and operate housing facilities that provide necessary services to enrich and empower the lives of seniors, families and individuals with low income and special needs.

The Affordable Housing Group is a nonprofit organization that develops affordable housing and provides assistance to community-based and faith-based organizations in North Carolina.

The facility will incorporate "green" building features to make it energy efficient, reduce its environmental impact and enhance its residents' quality of life.

The facility is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Apartment units will be available to seniors, regardless of religious affiliation, who qualify for low-income housing assistance.



The diocesan Housing Corporation is partly funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.

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Pope condemns Holocaust denial, reaffirms solidarity with Jews

JEWS, from page 1

Speaking the day after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Pope Benedict said he hoped "the memory of the Holocaust will persuade humanity to reflect on the unpredictable power of evil when it conquers the heart of man."

The Jews were "innocent victims of a blind, racist and religious hatred," he said at the end of his general audience in the Paul VI hall.

The pope recalled his many visits to Auschwitz, calling it "one of the concentration camps in which millions of Jews were brutally slaughtered" by the Nazis.

"May the Holocaust be a warning to everyone against forgetting, denying or minimizing" what happened to millions of Jews "because violence waged against just one human being is violence against everyone," he said.

"May violence never again humiliate the dignity of mankind," he said.

The Holocaust should be an important lesson for old and new generations, teaching them that "only the arduous path of listening and dialogue, love and forgiveness leads the world's peoples, cultures and religions to the hoped-for goal of fraternity and peace in truth," said the pope.

British-born Bishop Richard Williamson of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X has claimed that reports about the Holocaust were exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers. He repeated his position in a Swedish television interview recorded last November but aired Jan. 21 — the same day Pope Benedict lifted the excommunication against him and three other bishops who had been ordained against papal orders in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. The Vatican made the decree public Jan. 24.

In a letter posted on his blog Jan. 30, Bishop Williamson apologized to Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos for "having caused to yourself and to the Holy Father so much unnecessary distress and problems."

Cardinal Castrillon heads the "Ecclesia Dei" commission, which oversees the reconciliation of Lefebvrite Catholics with the church.

Critical response

Jewish groups expressed shock that after Bishop Williamson's comments were televised the Vatican would still lift the excommunication against him. The Chief Rabbinate of Israel postponed a March 2-4 meeting in Rome with the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Rabbi David Rosen, a member of the delegation of the Chief Rabbinate, said the meeting with the Vatican had been postponed indefinitely "until a response comes from the Vatican that's satisfactory to enable us to resume our relationship as before."

The director general of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, Oded Wiener, said the

pope's Jan. 28 statement condemning the denial of the Holocaust was "extremely important ... for all humanity" and that it was a "great step forward" in resolving the current embroilment between the Vatican and the rabbinate.

He said a letter he sent Jan. 27 to the pontifical commission's chairman, Cardinal Walter Kasper, in the name of the Chief Rabbinate was not intended to sever the ties, which were created in 2000, but simply to express deep disappointment at the reinstatement of Bishop Williamson.

The letter asked for a public apology from the bishop and for a postponement of the joint commission's planned meeting in March until the matter was clarified. He told CNS he was certain that members of the rabbinate's commission would be meeting for further discussion by early February in light of the pope's statement.

Wiener emphasized that, concerning Bishop Williamson's remarks, "We don't for one second believe this is the position of the pope."

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters Jan. 28 that Vatican officials hoped the rabbinate would resume dialogue with the pontifical commission so that its concerns could be addressed with "further and deeper reflection."

Father Lombardi said the pope's remarks condemning the Holocaust Jan. 28 and on previous occasions "should be more than enough of a response to the expectation of those who have expressed doubt concerning the pope and the Catholic Church's position" on the Holocaust. The spokesman said only with continued dialogue could relations between the Jewish world and the Catholic Church "successfully and serenely continue."

To further underline the many occasions the pope has publicly condemned anti-Semitism and expressed his closeness to the Jewish people, the Vatican posted archived footage of the pope on its new YouTube channel Jan. 28. The three video clips give excerpts of the pope's talks during his visit to a synagogue in Cologne, Germany, in 2005; his visit to the Nazis' Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland in 2006; and his general audience at the Vatican after his trip to Auschwitz.

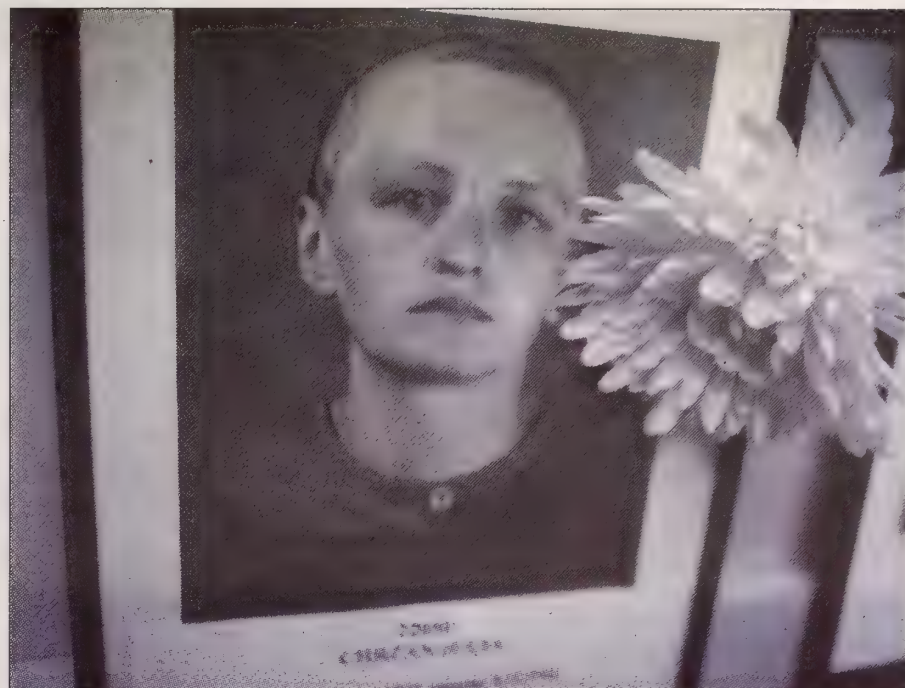
'Foolish' remarks

Cardinal Kasper said the traditionalist bishop's remarks were unacceptable, "foolish" and in no way reflect the position of the Catholic Church.

"Such gibberish is unacceptable," the German cardinal said Jan. 26. "To deny the Holocaust is unacceptable and is absolutely not the position of the Catholic Church."

The Vatican released a statement Jan. 27 from the head of the Swiss-based Society of St. Pius X, Bishop Bernard Fellay, who apologized for the damage caused by Bishop Williamson's remarks and said they in no way reflect the positions of the Society of St. Pius X.

"We ask forgiveness of the pontiff and of all people of good will for the dramatic consequences of this act,"



CNS PHOTO BY PETER ANDREWS, REUTERS

The photograph of a prisoner is seen at the Auschwitz museum near the former death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27. Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated internationally Jan. 27, the anniversary of the date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945.

Bishop Fellay wrote.

He said he had prohibited Bishop Williamson from speaking publicly on political or historical questions "until further orders."

"While we recognize that these remarks were inopportune, we cannot help but note with sadness that they have directly struck our society, discrediting its mission," he said.

In the United States, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a Jan. 24 statement that the pope's decision "undermines the strong relationship between Catholics and Jews" and was "a most troubling setback."

He said the ADL was "stunned the Vatican ignored (its) concerns" after it wrote a letter Jan. 23 to Cardinal Kasper saying that lifting the excommunication against a bishop who minimized the Holocaust and rejects the reforms of the Second Vatican Council would "become a source of great tension."

Foxman said the pope's gesture toward reconciling with the bishop sent "a terrible message to Catholics around the world that there is room in the church for those who would undermine the church's teachings and who would foster disdain and contempt for other religions, particularly Judaism."

The American Jewish Committee expressed its "shock and regret over the Vatican's decision" in a press release Jan. 24.

Long journey ahead

Cardinal Kasper, who co-chairs the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee with Rabbi Rosen, said he could see how Bishop Williamson's opinions could "cast a shadow over (Vatican) relations with Jews, but I am convinced dialogue will continue."

The cardinal said removing the excommunication against Bishop Williamson and the bishop's comments were two completely separate issues. By lifting the excommunication, he said, the pope was removing an obstacle to the Vatican's dialogue with the society.

"We will need to see in what

way they accept the (Second Vatican) Council" before further steps toward reconciliation and unity can be taken, he said.

In the past, the Society of St. Pius X has not accepted the liturgical reforms of Vatican II and its concepts of religious freedom and ecumenism.

A front-page article in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, called Bishop Williamson's remarks on the Holocaust unacceptable, "very serious and regrettable."

The paper underlined the church's teachings against anti-Semitism, which are clearly outlined in the declaration "Nostra Aetate." The Jan. 27 article said these teachings were "not debatable" within the Catholic Church.

It said the reforms the church adopted after Vatican II could never be jeopardized or "thrown into crisis by a magnanimous gesture of mercy" by the pope in seeking to reconcile with the traditionalist society.

French Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard of Bourdeaux said that resolving the many dogmatic and ecclesial questions remaining between the church and the society will be a journey that is "undoubtedly long."

But doctrinal issues are not the only thing making reconciliation difficult, said the cardinal, a member of the "Ecclesia Dei" commission.

Cultural and political attitudes, such as those reflected in the "unacceptable" remarks by Bishop Williamson concerning the Holocaust, also can hamper full reconciliation, he said in a press release Jan. 24.

The Swiss bishops' conference said the traditionalist bishop's remarks "worsened concerns" over the "deep divergences" between the society and the Catholic Church. It condemned Bishop Williamson's comments and apologized to the Jewish community in Switzerland for the upsetting episode.

"Those who know Benedict XVI and his positive attitude toward Judaism know that the indefensible ravings of Bishop Williamson will not be tolerated," the conference said.

FROM THE COVER

Fighting the FOCA fiasco

Rumors aside, legislation no threat to Catholic health care

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Internet rumors to the contrary, no Catholic hospital in the United States is in danger of closing because of the Freedom of Choice Act.

As a matter of fact, the Freedom of Choice Act died with the 110th Congress and, a week after the inauguration of President Barack Obama, has not been reintroduced.

But that hasn't kept misleading e-mails from flying around the Internet, warning of the dire consequences if Obama signs FOCA into law and promoting a "FOCA novena" in the days leading up to Inauguration Day.

The Catholic Health Association "is strongly committed to opposing FOCA and (the board) is unanimous that we would do all we could to oppose it," said Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., an elected member of the CHA board of trustees since June 2006.

"But there is no plan to shut down any hospital if it passes," he added in a Jan. 26 telephone interview. "There's no sense of ominous danger threatening health care institutions."

Sister Carol Keenan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, was equally sure that FOCA poses no threat to Catholic hospitals or to the conscience rights of those who work there.

"I don't believe that FOCA will pass, although we will continue to monitor all proposed regulations for their potential to help people in this country and for any negative assault on the life issues," she said.

As introduced in previous congresses, the legislation "has never contained anything that would force Catholic hospitals or Catholic personnel to do abortions or to participate in them," she added.

But even in a worst-case scenario, if the most dire predictions were to materialize and a federal law were to mandate that all hospitals provide abortion services, "I want to make it very clear that Catholic health care will not close and we will not compromise our principles," Sister Carol told Catholic News Service Jan. 26.

If necessary, Catholic hospitals will take a lesson from "how people have dealt with unjust laws" in American history, "and we would respond in the same way," she said.

"A very timely example" of that is segregation, which was backed up by U.S. laws and Supreme Court decisions that were unjust, Sister Carol said.

"It was a very long and very painful journey to deal with that and now we have an African-American president," she added.

Some of the confusion over FOCA might arise from the fact that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a long-scheduled postcard campaign to Congress against the possible legislation just as the false Internet rumors were reaching a peak.

The postcards, which are being made

available for Catholics to sign at Masses over several weekends in January and February, ask members of Congress to oppose FOCA "or any similar measure, and retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion."

"At this time of serious national challenges, Americans should unite to serve the good of all, born and unborn," the postcards say.

The FOCA novena e-mails, the source of which has not been identified, have a different tone entirely.

Calling the legislation "the next sick chapter in the book of abortion," the e-mails say it will force all hospitals to perform abortions, increase abortions by 100,000 annually and "could result in a future amendment that would force women by law to have abortions in certain situations (rape, Down syndrome babies, etc.) and could even regulate how many children women are allowed to have."

The rumors have spread like wildfire on blogs and Web sites. On the social networking site Facebook, three separate anti-FOCA groups with membership totaling nearly 130,000 (as of early Jan. 27) contain misinformation about what the so-far-nonexistent legislation would do.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Fort Worth, Texas, is "brand new as episcopal liaison" to the Catholic Health Association, a position he got in part because of his background as a medical technologist for three years in a Catholic hospital in Springfield, Ill., before he began his seminary studies.

"There is nothing definite yet about what is being introduced" in Congress, he told CNS Jan. 26.

"But CHA is really committed to monitoring any proposed legislation and to upholding the sacredness of life in all our institutions," he said.

Bishop Vann said the postcard campaign, run by the U.S. bishops' pro-life office and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, is getting a good reception from Catholics in his diocese.

"It's the voice of everyday folks expressing concern about FOCA in whatever form it comes," he said.

"As Catholics, we want our voices heard and this postcard campaign is one way that we can do that in a unified manner," said Maggi Nadol, director of Respect Life, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The idea is to flood Washington with a large amount (of postcards) in a short amount of time," she said.

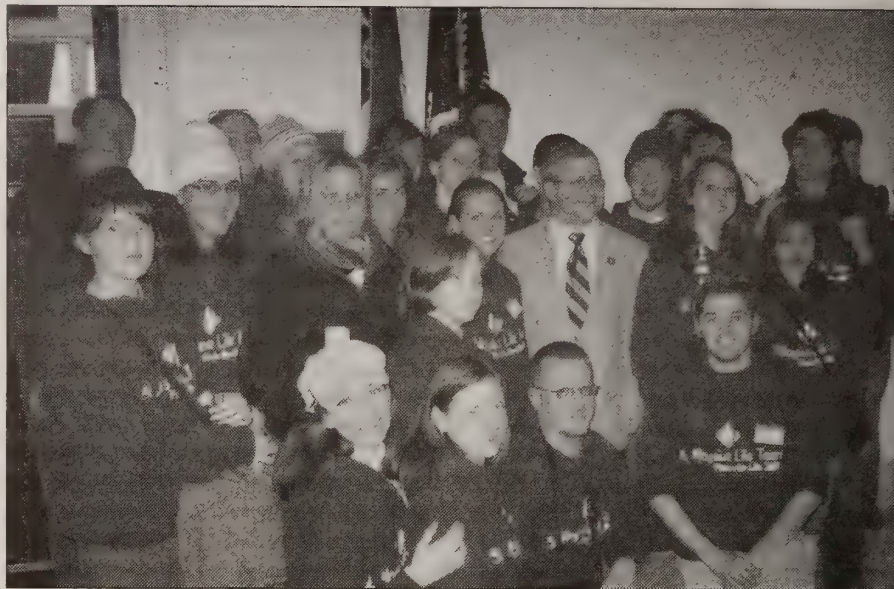
WANT MORE INFO?

For more information or to participate in the postcard campaign, contact Maggi Nadol at (704) 370-3229 or mnadol@charlottediocese.org.



The diocesan Respect Life program is funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 to March 8.

Marching for life



COURTESY PHOTO

Youths and adults from churches in the Diocese of Charlotte are pictured during a meeting with Rep. Patrick McHenry of North Carolina at his Washington office after the annual March for Life Jan. 22, which marked the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. They were among the more than 80 parishioners from St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, St. Joseph Church in Newton, St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton and St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine to attend the march and visit politicians, including Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan of North Carolina, to persuade them to vote against pro-abortion legislation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Christopher Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, is pictured with parishioners at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Jan. 22. The annual march drew thousands — including many from the Diocese of Charlotte — to Washington to mark the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Poll shows disapproval of Obama's Mexico City policy reversal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although a majority of Americans support many of President Barack Obama's early actions in office, only about a third back his decision to allow funding for overseas family planning groups that provide abortions, according to a new poll by USA Today/Gallup.

The results of the survey conducted Jan. 30-Feb. 1 show that "this is no time to divide our nation with policies that offend the pro-life values of most Americans," said Deirdre McQuade, policy and communications assistant director with the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, Feb. 3.

Asked about seven actions taken by Obama as president, the majority said they approved of his moves to:

— Name special envoys for the Middle East and for Afghanistan and

Pakistan (76 percent).

— Tighten ethics rules for administration officials (76 percent).

— Limit interrogation techniques used on prisoners (74 percent).

— Institute higher fuel efficiency standards (74 percent).

— Make it easier for workers to sue for pay discrimination (66 percent).

But only 44 percent said they supported Obama's decision to order that the Guantanamo Bay prison be closed and only 35 percent were in favor of his decision to reverse the Mexico City policy, a ban on federal funding of abortion-providing groups abroad that was first instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

The margin of error for the poll by USA Today/Gallup was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

FROM THE COVER

Obama gets advice from Catholic social thinkers

OBAMA, from page 1

"The Obama administration's 9/11 has already occurred," said Jesuit Father John Langan, professor of Catholic social thought at Georgetown. "It both gives and takes away."

He was one of four panelists assessing the new administration in its early days and Catholic social teaching as it relates to domestic and global concerns in a Jan. 29 program.

Father Langan said that regardless of what transpires on Capitol Hill and at the White House, the church must continue to advocate for the poor and prod officials to remember the needs of the unemployed and those in danger of losing their homes during debates on how to best to foster an economic recovery.

"Simply preserving the institutional structure of the financial community is not enough," he said.

The panelists tackled a broad range of domestic and global issues in a two-hour discussion, outlining deepening concerns related to health care reform, the plight of immigrants, reducing the world's nuclear weapon stockpiles and engaging Iran to ensure American security and peace in the Middle East.

In the end, the panelists concurred that with Democrats in charge at the White House and at the Capitol, many of the church's concerns about health care, the economy, the unemployed, the poor and improved relations with foreign governments are more likely to be addressed.

Catholic University history professor Leslie Tentler pointed to the work in 1919

of the National Catholic War Council, a forerunner to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as it proposed a wide-ranging social agenda.

At the time, the bishops urged President Woodrow Wilson and members of the 66th Congress to adopt publicly subsidized health care, a living wage for male workers so they could support their families, public housing, an insurance program similar to today's Social Security system, workplace safety rules, protection for the rights of workers to organize and an end to child labor.

The bishops must remain just as engaged in public policy today, offering their views that reflect the long-held tenets of Catholic social teaching, especially as they relate to justice for the poor and marginalized, said Tentler.

At the same time, she raised concern that the public perception about Catholic social teaching revolves around sex. Citing controversies over passionate debates on the definition of marriage and whether Communion should be withheld from Catholic politicians who do not oppose abortion, Tentler said the church must make known that its call for justice is broad.

Tentler suggested that the seamless garment approach to social concerns as promoted by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin "has a chance in this political moment to make a difference, to be heard and perhaps indeed to affect public policy."

Hopeful witnesses

Maryann Cusimano Love, associate professor of politics at Catholic University, cited Pope Benedict XVI's call to Catholics to "become for all



CNS PHOTO BY JIM WEST

Women rally outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters in Washington Jan. 21. Hundreds of immigrant supporters and religious leaders joined the demonstration calling for an end to ICE raids and asking new President Barack Obama to offer illegal immigrants a path to citizenship.

people of the world a witness to hope" in his second encyclical "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope).

She said Pope Benedict's call intersects with Obama's vision for hope.

"The Obama administration is pursuing very different principles, policies and processes in foreign policy," she said, "positions that dramatically realign U.S. foreign policy, much more in line with the positions of the Catholic Church."

John Steinbrunner, professor of public policy and director of the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, suggested that the time was right for Obama to take steps to negotiate significant reductions in nuclear arsenals with Russian and Chinese leaders.

The concept of nuclear deterrence, to which the U.S. bishops gave only provisional moral approval in their 1983 pastoral letter on peace, no longer applies 17 years after the end of the Cold War, Steinbrunner said.

Reducing nuclear weapons

stockpiles would lower the risk that such weapons would be used and also would make it less likely for such weapons to fall into the hands of terrorists, he said.

"We could lower the levels and still have the deterrence we need," he said.

Steinbrunner also urged Obama to move quickly to address global warming, a concern which poses a serious threat "to the viability of human societies," and to enter into "constructive engagement" with Iran.

By talking with Iranian leaders, he said, the new administration would be able to better assure U.S. security and allow the Middle East power to obtain the nuclear fuel it needs while limiting efforts that could lead to Iran developing nuclear weapons.

"It is going to require public activism," Steinbrunner said of all three concerns.

"The government isn't going to come up with this on its own. It's going to need active engagement to do so," he said.

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Catholic schools in diocese celebrate



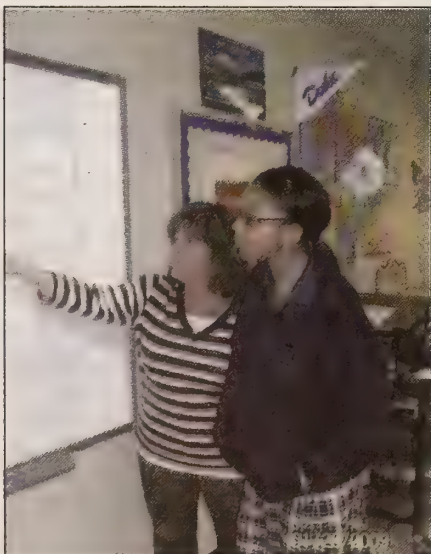
COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets third graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Jan. 27. With the bishop are Father Fidel Melo, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, and Principal Gary Gelo. Bishop Jugis visited each classroom and celebrated a school Mass, attended by members of local police and fire departments.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students and second-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte prepare 300 turkey and cheese sandwiches for Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office Jan. 26. The students also assembled 165 "goody bags" with Valentine's Day candy for the refugees.



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Karen Graves and eighth-grader Spencer Hodges demonstrate how to use a "smart board" during a Family Spaghetti Night at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Jan. 18.



Middle school students take part in a tai chi chuan demonstration at St. Leo the Great School in Winston. Students learned also about the Chinese New Year, traditional dancing and language.

Schools celebrate service

CSW, from page 1

for Pope Benedict XVI." During the pope's visit to the United States last year, Catholic youths pledged more than 2 million hours of community service to honor the pope's 81st birthday.

Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week

is observed as National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. This year NCEA officials planned to accompany a student delegation to Capitol Hill Jan. 28 to deliver packets of information about Catholic education to U.S. congressional leaders.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, students engaged in a number of service-oriented activities. Other activities included Masses, open houses and special events.

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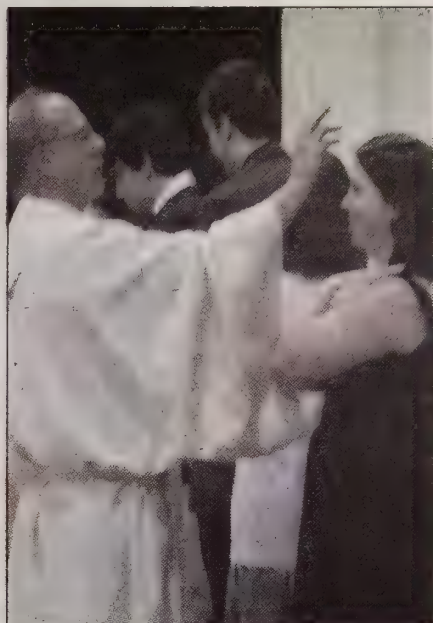
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Service during Catholic Schools Week



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, blesses a student during a Mass at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville during Catholic Schools Week. Priests from Triad-area parishes concelebrated the Mass, during which juniors Mary Kate Young and Garrett Daniel shared their recent service experiences — Mary Kate as a camp counselor, Garrett as a missionary in Costa Rica — as part of the Catholic Schools Week theme, "Celebrate Service."



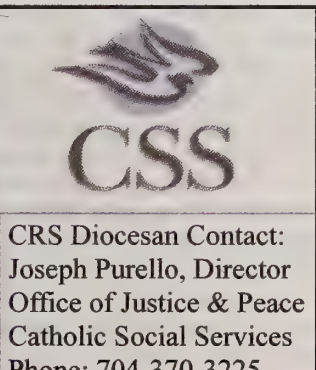
COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Josephine Maria Thomas, Mercy Sister Ann Marie Wilson and Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, all former principals of St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, read to students Jan. 27.

As part of an effort to celebrate cultural diversity,



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CRS Diocesan Contact:
Joseph Purello, Director
Office of Justice & Peace
Catholic Social Services
Phone: 704-370-3225

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25. For 34 years, ORB has called participants to pray, fast, learn and give in solidarity with those members of our world community who face poverty, disease, and hunger. The theme of this year's ORB Lenten Program is "Solidarity Will Transform the World." For more information about ORB, including information on how ORB funds are used by Catholic Relief Services around the world, please go to <http://orb.crs.org/>.

We, the Roman Catholics of the USA, are fortunate that the compassionate arm of Catholic Relief Services reaches out on our behalf to help meet the basic needs of millions of people worldwide. I offer my encouragement and my support to the Lenten Operation Rice Bowl Program, and thank all those parishes, schools and campus ministries participating in this charitable program.

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has called Lent a "privileged time of interior pilgrimage" toward our Lord Jesus Christ. As we ready ourselves for the joyous celebration of the Paschal Triduum, it is fitting that our prayers and acts of fasting and abstinence, and our participation in the sacramental life of the Church, be marked with outward expressions of charity to those who suffer from want of basic human needs.

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte



COURTESY PHOTO

Diocesan school board members Bernie Moorman, Wayne Wilson and Mary Morales are pictured with Principal Allana Rae-Ramkissoon (left) and students of Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte Jan. 29. The students were the winners of a "Celebrate Service" poster contest for Catholic Schools Week.

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Culture Watch

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Book details faith foundation of farmworker movement, author says

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A new book on Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers union shows not only how the tactics they adopted to win contracts have been used by other social movements since then, but also the faith foundations of the union itself, according to its author.

"There's a lot of impact that I think that the Catholic Church and the whole religious community had on the farmworker movement and the labor movement and the immigrant rights movement that I think is not given a whole lot of credit that they're due for," said Randy Shaw, author of "Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chavez, the UFW, and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century."

"No one had any idea how religious Chavez was and how religious the movement was," Shaw said in a Nov. 24 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. Shaw also took note of the role the late Robert F. Kennedy played in marshaling popular support for the UFW.

"The fact that Kennedy said it's a bishop's duty to stand with the farmworkers, I think, in terms of Kennedy's legacy, was extremely important," he said.

What impressed UFW leaders is that Kennedy gave his support without asking anything in return.

Kennedy first lent his support in 1966, well before grape boycotts swept the nation in order to bring grape growers to the bargaining table.

He also sat with Chavez at the end of his first "spiritual fast" in 1968, shortly before announcing his bid to capture the Democratic presidential nomination — a bid that ended with his assassination that June. Shaw also noted how the UFW served as a bridge-builder between Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and the labor movement with the 2003 Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

Cardinal Mahony had been a staunch supporter of the UFW in particular, and unions in general, during his time as bishop of Stockton, Calif., and early in his tenure in Los Angeles.

But the cardinal's relationship with labor was strained when labor leaders blamed Cardinal Mahony for a failed attempt to organize workers at the archdiocese's cemeteries in the early 1990s.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride thawed relations that had been cool for a decade, Shaw said, giving the credit to Eliseo Medina, who got his start as an organizer with the UFW and later became a vice president in what is now the nation's largest labor union, the Service Employees International Union.

"It was kind of the UFW

tradition, recognizing the importance of the immigrant community," Shaw said. "That turned out to be a very important overture."

In a further show of solidarity with immigrants, Cardinal Mahony in 2006 said he would ask priests of his archdiocese to break the law rather than comply with provisions in a bill the House had passed that would criminalize the act of offering aid to illegal immigrants.

"When you have a cardinal saying we're not going to comply with this, it's pretty serious, I think," Shaw said.

Thanks to grass-roots boycotts on the national and international level, community organizing and political savvy, the UFW achieved a string of victories between 1966 and 1976. It lost badly when a California ballot measure it supported dealing with the agricultural relations board failed in 1976, but the UFW rebounded in 1979 with a lettuce strike that won it still more contracts.

"You could say that with everything that happened up to 1979, they could be as strong as ever," Shaw told CNS. "But then Cesar had to manipulate the (UFW) convention and not let the workers have a say. That decimated the union. Cesar undermined the organization he had built."

Even though the UFW is itself not as strong as it once was, its methods have inspired countless campaigns over the past generation.

They include those seeking pickle contracts between Vlasic and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in Ohio and Michigan, pursuing tomato contracts between the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Florida and some of the nation's largest fast-food restaurant chains, and community organizing projects in cities and towns across the country.

Shaw also noted how the UFW's signature chant, "Si, se puede," or "Yes, it can be done," was modified into "Yes, we can" for the campaign of Barack Obama, a onetime community organizer who is now president-elect.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 15, 2009

Feb. 15, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Lent a time to seek God's compassion

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"I'm hiding, I'm hiding, and no one knows where; for all they can see is my toes and my hair."

So goes a children's poem by Dorothy Keeley Aldis that many a young student of the 1960s memorized and probably still recalls. The rhyme is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek account by a child who thinks he's hiding from his parents; the audible description of their search makes it obvious to the reader that they know where he is all along but decide to play his game for a while.

There are other kinds of "hiding" that people do, not for fun, but out of guilt and shame. The Genesis story of Adam and Eve hiding from God in the primordial garden is an insightful observation of this tendency of human beings to cover up their wrongdoing.

The urge to conceal is strong, whether it's a child hiding the broken pieces of her mother's treasured vase or an adult politician hiding past misconduct in order to get elected. Most of the time, however, the transgressor becomes isolated in his or her guilt

and what was hidden eventually comes to light anyway.

In both the first reading and the Gospel, leprosy and the means for dealing with it are used as metaphors for sin, its capacity to isolate the sinner and the importance of "coming clean."

The rituals prescribed by Moses are simply a means for the sufferer and the community to publicly acknowledge both the disease and the cure so that nothing remains hidden.

Jesus' interaction with the leper in the Gospel adds yet another welcome dimension to the problem of human sin, guilt and isolation. Moved by compassion, he touches and heals the man, indicating that in the reign of God the consequences of sin and suffering are not only brought to light but restored to health.

When that healing takes place, Jesus instructs the once-isolated leper to give public thanks to God and to return to his restored place in the community.

In a few days, Christians will enter the penitential season of Lent, an opportunity to come out of hiding: to put aside the games of self-deception, to seek God's compassion and mercy, and to celebrate our healing with one another — perhaps through the sacrament of reconciliation.

It is the perfect time for us to "come clean."

Questions:

What sinful tendencies and actions have you gotten into the habit of hiding from yourself and others?

How can the approaching season of Lent become a time of healing and restoration for you?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not" (Psalm 32:5).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 8-14

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Job 7:1-4, 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23, Mark 1:29-39; Monday, Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; Tuesday (St. Scholastica), Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; Wednesday (Our Lady of Lourdes), Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; Thursday, Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; Friday, Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; Saturday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius), Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 15-21

Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45; Monday, Genesis 4:1-15, 25, Mark 8:11-13; Tuesday (Seven Servite Founders), Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10, Mark 8:14-21; Wednesday, Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; Thursday, Genesis 9:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; Friday, Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34-9:1; Saturday (St. Peter Damian), Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13.

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Pope asks young Catholics to use technology to share their faith

Virtual lives may become obsessive, pope warns; face-to-face relationships encouraged

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI asked young Catholics to use their computers, Facebook accounts, blogs and Internet video posts to share with their peers the joy of faith in Christ.

"Be sure to announce the Gospel to your contemporaries with enthusiasm," the pope told young people in his message for the 2009 celebration of World Communications Day.

"Human hearts are yearning for a world where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth and where identity is found in respectful communion," said Pope Benedict's message, which was released at the Vatican Jan. 23.

The theme for the 2009 World Communications Day, which will be celebrated May 24 in most dioceses, is "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

In the message — which was e-mailed directly to 100,000 young Catholics around the world and asked them to forward it or post it on their Web sites — Pope Benedict said that if used creatively and correctly new computer technologies can help people meet the human longing to connect with others and share the search for goodness, beauty and truth.

Of course, he said, people must "avoid the sharing of words and images that are degrading of human beings, that promote hatred and intolerance, that debase the goodness and intimacy of human sexuality or that exploit the weak and vulnerable."

And praising the way young people use the Internet to form and maintain friendships, he also cautioned against trivializing friendship by not forming real, face-to-face relationships.

"It would be sad if our desire to sustain and develop online friendships were to be at the cost of our availability to engage with our families, our neighbors

and those we meet in the daily reality of our places of work, education and recreation," Pope Benedict said.

"If the desire for virtual connectedness becomes obsessive, it may in fact function to isolate individuals from real social interaction while also disrupting the patterns of rest, silence and reflection that are necessary for healthy human development," the pope said.

Still, Pope Benedict said, new technologies have an "extraordinary potential" to bring people together, to help them share information, to rally them to work for good causes and to educate.

"They respond to a fundamental desire of people to communicate and to relate to each other," he said.

"When we find ourselves drawn toward other people, when we want to know more about them and make ourselves known to them, we are responding to God's call — a call that is imprinted in our nature as beings created in the image and likeness of God, the God of communication and communion," Pope Benedict said.

Much of the pope's message was addressed to the "digital generation," to young people who have grown up using computers and cellular phones, e-mail and text messaging.

He asked them "to bring the witness of their faith to the digital world" and to write openly about the joys of faith when they write their profiles on social-networking sites or blogs.

The first step in evangelization is to understand the culture in which the Gospel will be proclaimed, he said, and young Catholics are the ones who have that understanding of their peers and of the Internet culture they use to communicate.

"You know their fears and their hopes, their aspirations and their disappointments," the pope told young Catholics. "The greatest gift you can give to them is to share with them the good news of a God who became man, who suffered, died and rose again to save all people."

Viewing the faith online

Vatican launches video news channel on YouTube

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican launched a video channel on YouTube that will feature news coverage of Pope Benedict XVI and major Vatican events.

It marked the start of the Vatican's strategic vision of working "to be present wherever people are," said Archbishop Claudio Celli, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

The Vatican officially unveiled the new channel Jan. 23 during a press conference that presented Pope Benedict's message for World Communications Day, which was dedicated to new media technology.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Jan. 25, the pope said he hopes the YouTube channel "will enrich a wide range of people — including those who have yet to find a response to their spiritual yearning — through the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ."

The new Vatican initiative will make information and news about the Vatican more readily accessible on the Internet, the pope said at the end of his midday Angelus address. The wise use of online networking technology can help people form new communities "in ways that promote the search for truth, the good and the beautiful, transcending geographical boundaries and ethnic divisions," he said.

The Vatican channel is the result of a new partnership the Vatican Television Center and Vatican Radio forged with the Internet giant Google and its video-sharing Web site, YouTube.

The Vatican's television and radio operations had been collaborating for the past year and a half to produce short news videos that are aired on the Vatican Radio Web site.

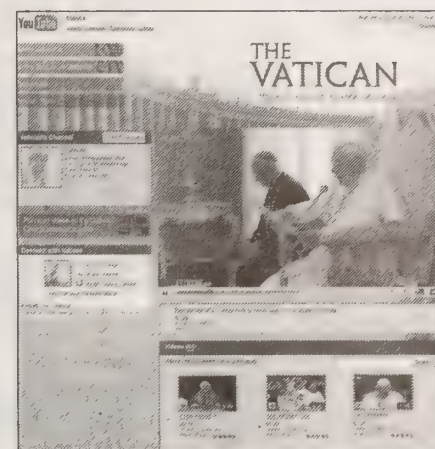
Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, head of the Vatican's television and radio offices, said during the Jan. 23 press conference it only seemed natural to start offering the news clips "not only to a prevalently Catholic audience, but to a much larger, practically global audience."

He said it was important to offer these services to people who are looking for the pronouncements and position of "a high-level moral authority like the pope and, in general, the Catholic Church" concerning the major burning issues and problems in the world today.

"Therefore, choosing YouTube as an appropriate platform for establishing a presence on the Web" made sense, he said, especially given that so much information on the pope and the Vatican was already appearing in fragmented, out-of-context forms and scattered over multiple venues.

By creating its own channel on YouTube — which boasts 70 million viewers a month — the Vatican is seeking to give people the opportunity to access information about the pope and the Vatican from a regular and trustworthy source, said Father Lombardi.

He said Pope Benedict "was



SCREEN CAPTURE BY CNS

The Vatican's YouTube video news channel features news clips of Pope Benedict XVI and major Vatican events. The channel, www.youtube.com/vatican, was unveiled Jan. 23.

personally informed about the project and sees it as a positive step" forward for the church.

The Vatican's ad-free YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/vatican, each day will offer one to three short video news clips of the pope or major Vatican events with audio commentary in English, Italian, Spanish and German. The footage is produced daily by the Vatican Television Center, which works with Vatican Radio to produce the audio commentary.

Viewers will be able to leave comments, distribute the videos by e-mailing or messaging the links, and share the videos with friends on various social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, as well as submit the Vatican video links to news aggregator sites like Digg.

Unlike many videos available on YouTube, which viewers can rate according to YouTube's one- to five-star grading system, the Vatican videos cannot be rated or embedded onto external Web sites or blogs. The Vatican channel's home page, however, can be embedded elsewhere.

Just a few hours after its launch, the Vatican channel recorded more than 12,000 views and enrolled more than 500 free subscribers who will receive regular updates of new Vatican video uploads.

Henrique de Castro, a managing director for Google, said the company was honored the Vatican chose to use YouTube to communicate with people around the world.

He said in a written press release that YouTube was pleased its online users "will have access to the words of the pope on some of the most important issues facing the world today."

More people search on Google for "God," for example, than for many famous world figures and celebrities, he noted in written remarks.

Father Lombardi said the YouTube initiative was only the beginning of a long journey utilizing some of the possibilities today's digital media and platforms offer.

He said the Vatican hopes to expand the kind of video coverage it offers to include high-definition broadcasts and events without dubbed commentary, but in the original language and with "natural sound."

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

In honor of Black History Month, the diocesan Archive's Office presents a brief sketch of several churches that once served African-Americans in western North Carolina but are now closed.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ROBINSON-SPANGLER CAROLINA ROOM, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY

A priest identified as Redemptorist Father Walter Bueche is pictured with first communicants at St. Mary Help of the Sick Church in Charlotte Oct. 11, 1953.

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Asheville

Located at 56 Walton St., the church was established in 1935 and staffed by the Franciscan Order. A parochial school opened in 1936, operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany.

Shortly after the church opened, devotions were celebrated three nights a week, school students were taught to sing the Propers for solemn high Masses, and 30 children were baptized in one evening. The church offered special classes to children and adults that focused on music, art and drama.

Franciscan priests continued to staff the church until 1966, when Father Joseph Howze, a diocesan priest, assumed responsibility. Father Howze became the first bishop of Biloxi, Miss., and one of the first African-American bishops.

The Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany withdrew from the school in 1969, prompting its closing. That same year, by decree of Raleigh Bishop Vincent Waters, the church ceased as a parish and its congregation was combined with that of St. Lawrence Church.

The church became a chapel of ease—it served as a supplementary chapel to accommodate those living at a distance from the parish church. The school rooms were used for religious education and a child-care facility run by the Daughters of the Church.

In 1975, the property was sold to the Tabernacle Baptist Community.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Charlotte

Located on the corner of Oaklawn Ave. and Fairfield St., the church was staffed by Redemptorist priests in 1939.

For a period of time in the 1950s, the priests drove a school bus with parish children to St. Benedict School in Belmont for Catholic education.

The Redemptorists withdrew from the parish and turned it over to the Diocese of Raleigh in 1955. At this time, Bishop Waters opened a new church for African-Americans named Our Lady of Consolation Church. Auxiliary Bishop James Navagh served as its first pastor.

The Redemptorists continued to maintain the Our Lady of Perpetual Help property at 1015 Fairfield St. It was used as a mission house and later became Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat House. It closed in the late 1960s.

St. Mary Help of the Sick Church, Charlotte

The church was established in 1947 at 115 N. McDowell St when Redemptorist priests

purchased the property from a Baptist congregation.

The church served as a mission chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, and initially both facilities shared the same name. However in 1952, Bishop Waters permitted the chapel to be renamed St. Mary Help of the Sick.

In 1955, it became a mission of Our Lady of Consolation Church. The structure remained intact after being sold, and an office complex encompassed it. By driving south on McDowell Street, just before East Trade Street on the right one can still view the exterior of the former church.

St. Joseph Church, Monroe

Originally under the custodial care of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the church came into being through the efforts of Mercy Father Thomas McAvoy.

The Society of the Fathers of Mercy arrived in Monroe in 1942 to establish Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Father McAvoy performed the society's work among the African-American population and acquired property for the mission on Winchester Ave. The property consisted of a small chapel, office, classroom and a day care nursery.

Financial assistance came yearly from the Catholic Business Women's Guild in New York City. The guild helped fund construction of the church and all the religious appointments within it.

Bishop Vincent Waters dedicated the church Oct. 17, 1948, and during that year it was raised to parish status.

Throughout the years, the Fathers of Mercy appointed one priest for Our Lady of Lourdes Church and one for St. Joseph Church, but in 1960 they withdrew from Monroe; thus, diocesan priests served both churches until St. Joseph closed in the early 1970s. The property was later sold.

Our Lady of Victories Church, Salisbury

Founded in 1942 by the Holy Ghost Fathers, the church began in a store front and used the altar from the old Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

The mission moved to 216 S. Craig St. in 1945 and to 124 S. Lloyd St. in 1949. It became a parish in the mid-1950s. The Diocese of Raleigh took over administration in 1959.

In 1969, Bishop Waters decreed the congregation be united with Sacred Heart Church. The property was sold to the Christian Methodist Episcopal congregation in July 1972.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

David Hains, communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte, gives a press conference in the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Feb. 2. Hains issued a statement from the diocese regarding Capuchin Franciscan Father Robert Yurgel, who pleaded guilty earlier that day to sexually abusing a minor in the late 1990s and was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison.

Priest sentenced for abuse

Diocese encourages prayers for victim, victim's family

CHARLOTTE — A priest who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte has been sentenced for sexual abuse.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Robert Yurgel was sentenced Feb. 2 to at least seven years and eight months in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree sex offense. He'll also have to register as a sex offender.

In April 2008, Father Yurgel was arrested in New Jersey, where he was ministering in a hospital, on sexual abuse charges involving a minor.

Father Yurgel served at St. Matthew and Our Lady of Consolation churches in Charlotte in the late 1990s, when the incidents occurred. In October 1999, Father Yurgel's order, the Capuchin Franciscans, assigned him to ministry in New Jersey.

The victim, now in his early 20s, recently reported the matter to police. The Diocese of Charlotte was not made aware of the allegations or the investigation prior to the April 2 announcement of the arrest by police.

"The Diocese of Charlotte was deeply saddened to learn of the sexual abuse of a teenage victim by Father Robert Yurgel ... and asks for prayers for the victim, the victim's family, the perpetrator and for others who have been affected by the sinful crime of sexual abuse," said a diocesan statement issued Feb. 2 in response to the sentencing.

The victim has named the diocese, the Capuchin Franciscan order and Father Yurgel in a civil lawsuit, alleging a cover up.

"During Father Yurgel's time in Charlotte, the diocese was not made aware of any complaints concerning his conduct with minors," the diocesan statement said.

Shortly after the arrest, priests at St. Matthew and Our Lady of Consolation churches urged anyone who has been victimized by Father Yurgel or others to contact civil authorities.

In its Feb. 2 statement, the diocese also urged victims to contact civil

authorities and emphasized its continued commitment to sexual-abuse awareness.

The diocese implemented a sexual abuse policy in 1989 and in 2002 adopted the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Since that time, more than 20,000 diocesan employees and church volunteers have attended the church's sexual-abuse awareness training program, "Protecting God's Children."

The diocese conducts background checks on all employees and volunteers to safeguard the young and vulnerable. More than 19,900 background checks have been conducted.

The training and background checks are ongoing.

In June 2002 at a meeting in Dallas, Texas, the U.S. bishops adopted the charter and its mandates for an annual audit and survey, and also adopted the "Essential Norms" to assure that all dioceses adhere to the charter.

The charter also established the Office of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board to oversee compliance with the charter. The Diocese of Charlotte has been found to be in consistent compliance.

The charter was updated in 2005, the norms in 2006. The charter and norms have Vatican approval.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

As a part of its commitment to support the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the Diocese of Charlotte has appointed a coordinator to assist survivors of sexual abuse.

The assistance coordinator can help survivors of abuse, whether the incident took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese.

The current coordinator is David Harold. Contact him at (704) 370-3363 or dwharold@charlottediocese.org.

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Perspectives

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A Catholic approach to Internet addiction

Five-step path to recovery exists for those caught in destructive habit

I realize that one of my last columns argued that the social networking site Facebook fosters, not robs, intimacy in relationships.

I'm not alone in citing its benefits.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro recently wrote in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, a magazine reviewed by the Vatican, that "Facebook incarnates a utopia ... that of always staying close to those people we care about in one way or another and of getting to know others who are compatible with us."

But even as Facebook and other sites have value, too much time on the Internet can emotionally drain a person and become a silent kind of addiction.

Authors Kimberly Young and Patrice Klausing explain in their excellent resource, "Breaking Free of the Web: Catholics and Internet Addiction" that "Internet addicts use the online world as a psychological escape."

"The Internet is a seemingly safe way to cope with life's problems, and it is a legal and relatively inexpensive way to soothe or avoid disturbing feelings. Because of this, the Internet can quickly become a convenient means for instantly forgetting whatever stresses and pains an addict is experiencing."

The authors present a five-step path to recovery for Catholics caught in this destructive habit.

1) Be open. At some point, the person needs to wake up to his or her behavior and realize that time once spent on supervising homework with the kids is now squandered on surfing the Net and reviewing the updates of Facebook "friends."

Like any addiction, nothing will get resolved if a person stays in denial. He or she must admit the problem before recovery takes place.

2) Seek professional help. Young and Klausing write: "It isn't easy to find a therapist familiar with the Internet, online addiction and the impact of online

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



affairs. Over time this will change, but in the meantime, make sure that your therapist is someone willing to listen and learn about the Internet in order to best help you."

3) Practice the 12 steps. They were written for people recovering from alcoholism, but they work for any addiction.

I like to summarize the first three of the 12 steps in this simple language: I can't. God can. I think I'll let him.

Young and Klausing encourage those addicted to the Internet to join a support group of folks who are battling the same behavior. According to them, "this is especially important for Internet addicts who typically suffer from interpersonal difficulties such as introversion, a limited social network and poor social skills."

4) Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. The authors explain how this sacrament can be a powerful and energizing force in changing behavior.

By preparing for and participating in this sacrament, a person begins the process of "establishing a right relationship with God."

5) Have faith along the journey. Young and Klausing rightly conclude that "the most challenging aspect of lasting recovery is fighting the temptation to return to the addiction," which is why it's so important to remember that God is with you — especially in those moments when fighting the beast of Internet addiction is hardest.

and that hearts be open to God's truth regarding the sanctity of life from womb to tomb.

2. Get involved. Join organizations of all political persuasions that seek to bring hope and change to this important arena. Particularly at the parish level, our priests need to be supported as they proclaim the truth about abortion, euthanasia, poverty and the dignity of human life.

3. Lobby and pray for our prominent Catholic politicians who reject church teaching. Approach all brothers and sisters in a spirit of love — an assumption of their

What the inauguration crowds were looking for

Through Jesus we find community, hope

I was in a one-room elementary schoolhouse in Nebraska when a neighboring farmer stopped in to tell our teacher President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

Four hours behind East Coast time, I was sound asleep when the World Trade Center towers collapsed. I couldn't understand what was going on when I awoke and turned the radio on and heard that every airport in the United States was closed.

"What could be happening?" I asked my husband.

I was in a hotel in Phoenix when Barack Obama was sworn in as president of the United States.

We'll always remember where we were and what we were doing when momentous things happen. There are many people who still recall vividly where they were, who they were with, even what they were eating when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

The power of moments like these arises from our deep desire to be part of community. We sense the immensity of what's happening, something larger than we are, and in those moments we want to be near to the heart of our collective consciousness.

This explains the most powerful aspect of President Obama's inauguration. It wasn't his speech, which fell short of his usual oratory. Instead, it was the mass of people that thronged the Mall and all of Washington.

It was the tales people had to tell, of segregation and discrimination now hopefully overcome. It was the stories of the young, who felt history moving into their generation.

Besides a need to belong, to be part of community, I felt in the crowd a powerful surge of hope. Abraham Lincoln spoke of the "better angels of our nature," and I think these better angels flooded the Mall Jan. 20.

These Americans were daring to hope.

In Lincoln's day politics and oratory were highly valued, and a far bigger percentage of the eligible U.S. population voted. Huge crowds gathered to hear a speaker discourse for two to three hours at a time.

Imagine: no microphones, no big-

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



screen TVs broadcasting the action to the back of the crowd, no sound bites or instant replays. Just huge throngs of people who came to hear a well-spoken argument.

It was the entertainment of the day, and it brought people into community.

Jesus was no stranger to crowds. Jesus climbed into a boat so he could speak to the assembly swelling on the shore.

Here's Jesus, instructing the disciples to feed the thousands who followed him.

And Jesus, watching a man being lowered through the ceiling because the crowds were so great he had no chance of gaining entrance through the front door.

What did all these people want from Jesus?

Healing, yes.

But they also wanted to find community, and they wanted hope. They wanted to believe that in this weary world, there was something, someone to believe in.

The crowd at the inauguration caused me to think about Jesus, and I wondered why more people today don't turn to him for their ultimate sense of community and hope.

After all, after 2000 years he still offers the "words of everlasting life." History hasn't dimmed his charisma, his appeal. You would think the masses would still press in upon him.

And then it struck me. Jesus doesn't speak to anyone today unless we do. That's our calling, our vocation, to offer community and hope to a weary world.

St. Teresa of Avila famously wrote, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours."

In our humble way, we have to be there as Jesus to at least someone in that crowd today.

Challenge for Catholics

In a spirit of prayer and hope, I appeal to my Catholic brothers and sisters who voted for Barack Obama. Now that this historic election has taken place, before us is an opportunity and challenge for the pro-life movement.

We know good people differ strongly regarding avenues for change, but Catholic teaching is clear on the sanctity of life. I encourage faithful Catholics to consider the following:

1. Pray for the right-to-life movement

Letters to the Editor

inherent human goodness is the place where we need to begin dialoguing.

During this time of hope and promises, let's turn our energies to seeking unity and progress in protecting the basic human rights of life and liberty, especially for those whose voices cannot be heard.

— Mary Head
Asheville

Prayers for change

When Jesus' life was being taken away, he prayed, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."

When it comes to pro-abortion politicians and those who support them, why not also pray, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do?"

Let us then pray that President Obama receive God's guidance so that our nation esteems life in all its fullness.

— Robin Ach
Winston-Salem

Blessing the grave

Euthanasia ideology a variation of ancient heresy

I had the privilege of blessing the grave of Terri Schindler-Schiavo, a severely brain-damaged Florida woman who was essentially murdered on March 31, 2005 by dehydration, after a court ordered that her husband could make her medical decisions for her.

Her grave is not far from the place where she died, and where people from around the world had gathered to protest and pray.

Those who visit the gravestone, however, will notice something highly unusual.

While on most graves there is an inscription of two dates — when the person was born and when he or she died — on Terri's there are three. Here's exactly what the grave says:

Born December 3, 1963
Departed this Earth February 25, 1990
At Peace March 31, 2005

The whole world knows that she died March 31, 2005. National and global media were present at the scene for days, covering every detail. Media were present again when I preached at her funeral mass.

We know when she died.
But her gravestone has become a

pulpit for the euthanasia movement. Those who killed her are now using her grave as a platform for their twisted ideology.

What they are trying to say is that once her brain was injured in 1990 and she was no longer functioning like most of us, she wasn't one of us anymore. She "departed this earth."

This is actually a variation on an ancient heresy, which says that we are really spirits inhabiting a body. Terri couldn't communicate normally. So, her "spirit" must have left her. The body was just a shell left behind.

Those who believe she really "departed this earth" in 1990 can therefore pretend it was okay to kill her in 2005. After all, it wasn't really her. She was already gone.

This is heresy, because Christianity teaches that we are a unity of body and soul, not simply a soul "using" a body.

The body matters. What we do to the body, we do to the person.

Moreover, the gravestone inscription is a deep insult to all who are disabled and to all those who love and care for them.

Should they be considered already dead, too?

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



Are we just wasting our time caring for them?

Euthanasia advocates would have us think so.

A recent news story about a disabled unborn child quoted one as saying, "There's no human life there." Isn't that the same idea? They think the baby has already "departed this earth," so they don't hesitate to abort the body.

As I blessed Terri's grave, I also prayed that God's people would be kept safe from this falsehood.

And I recalled being in Terri's room the day she died.

I remembered her face, dehydrated from not having had a drop of water in two weeks.

I recalled seeing the flowers, inches away, on her night table. They were immersed in water.

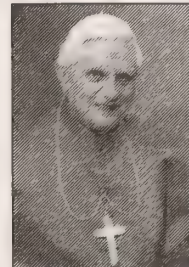
And as I left the grave, I gave a final glance to the vase of flowers that was standing by the stone.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

St. Paul continues to strengthen, renew church, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — St. Paul left behind "an extraordinary spiritual heritage" and his teachings will always serve to strengthen and renew the church, Pope Benedict XVI said.

This first-century apostle represents an "extremely fruitful and deep Christian thinker" from whom everyone can benefit, the pope said Feb. 4 at his weekly general audience.

With an estimated 4,500 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict concluded a series of audience talks begun in July dedicated to the life and teaching of St. Paul. The church's celebration of the year of St. Paul began June 28, 2008, and runs until June 29.

St. Paul has provided spiritual nourishment to the Fathers of the Church and the faithful for millennia, the pope said.

He said a real turning point in the reading of St. Paul's teachings came in the 16th century with Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation he led.

Luther "found a new interpretation of the Pauline doctrine of justification," the pope said, which "gave him a new, radical trust in the goodness of God who forgives everything unconditionally."

Luther, an Augustinian monk who was excommunicated by the church for preaching against papal infallibility, emphasized the absolute primacy of God's action in freeing people from sin and making them just.

In 1999, Lutherans and Catholics signed a Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, resolving one of the issues that sparked the Reformation.

In the declaration, the churches said they agreed that, "by grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping us and calling us to good works."

In his general audience, the pope said biblical interpretation by Catholics and Protestants has reached "notable consensus" even on issues that had been the source of Protestant dissent.

He said this progress gives "great hope for the cause of ecumenism, which is so central to the Second Vatican Council."

Pope Benedict said drawing from St. Paul's life, example and teachings will always encourage and help guarantee the strengthening of "the Christian identity of every one of us and the rejuvenation of the whole church."

Faith amid sickness

Health crisis can bring changes, but soul and God's love are unwavering

Feb. 11, 2009, marks the 17th World Day of the Sick, established by Pope John Paul II to correspond with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The day reminds "everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind" (letter instituting the World Day of the Sick, May 13, 1992).

This day is also an ideal occasion for the sick to be reminded of the holiness and vocational nature of suffering, whether it is physical or emotional, and that they are urged to seek ways to turn the burden of pain and illness into active witness and work for the Lord.

Often, I receive e-mails from people who fear losing their faith because of their health challenges. Fatigue, pain and the sometimes devastating course of serious illness can be isolating.

Productivity, personal identity and long-held dreams and goals can suffer too. It isn't uncommon for me to hear from fellow patients that "no one understands," that there is no use in keeping hope alive when life is so hard.

I understand this despair. I went through a very dark time when I was diagnosed with lupus.

My sense of productivity — and

how I dressed — was forever changed. When outdoors, I had to completely protect myself from the sun. I lost all of my hair.

Simple tasks like opening a jar, cooking, walking became extremely difficult and sometimes impossible.

Suddenly, into my day, budget and long-term goals I had to figure a terrible illness about which there was no clear prognosis. Some friends understood and remained true, others did not.

What could have been a terrifying experience, however, became more faith-filled. In prayer there is quiet, peace and renewal.

In the holiness of Mass there is reason to celebrate and act as one with others. In Scripture there is deeper meaning in often-heard readings from both the Old and New Testaments, especially through the lives of people who also suffered.

In the example and sacrifice of Christ, there is daily sustenance for flagging energy, shaken resolve and, yes, even courage for fearful times.

Illness and faith do not cancel one another out. Those who suffer are not called to sit on the sidelines, trembling with fright.

Our lights are meant to shine brightly and not be hidden.

Living Well

MAUREEN PRATT
CNS COLUMNIST



In Pope John Paul II's message for the first annual World Day of the Sick, he said:

"Outside of faith, ... how can we discover in the moment of trial the constructive contribution of pain? How can we give meaning and value to the anguish, unease, and physical and psychic ills accompanying our mortal condition? ... Yes, only in Christ, the incarnate word, redeemer of mankind and victor over death, is it possible to find satisfactory answers to such fundamental questions."

When we face a personal health crisis, our circumstances might be different and our appearance and other aspects of life might change. But our essential being, our soul and our preciousness in God's eyes are unwavering.

Moreover, our call goes beyond belief to action — fearless action — that reaches out to others and extends to them the same love and comfort rooted in faith that we wish to have extended to us.

Our Lord is with us every step of the way. How can we be afraid?

Not-so holy smoke

Early-morning fire damages roof of Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral

BY MICHELLE MARTIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — While parishioners stood and stared with tears in their eyes and firefighters continued to pour water on the roof of Holy Name Cathedral, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago told reporters the cathedral would "bounce back" from an early morning fire Feb. 4.

"Chicago has bounced back from fires before," said the cardinal. "We will bounce back from this." He spoke to the media after taking a tour inside the cathedral.

The blaze, which was of unknown origin and took firefighters two and a half hours to battle, was under control by 7:30 a.m. CST and reported to be out a half-hour later.

Fire officials reported there was significant water damage inside. Firefighters had punched holes in the roof to battle the blaze. There apparently was extensive damage to the cathedral's roof and attic.

Archdiocesan chancellor Jimmy Lago said the cathedral would likely be

closed for months for repairs.

The fire apparently started in the attic area between the decorative wooden ceiling and the roof, in the area over the altar at the east end of the building. Because it broke out above the ceiling, the fire also was above the sprinkler system.

"The cathedral looks like the cathedral," the cardinal said, explaining what he saw when he went inside. "Until you see the icicles on the pews and the water on the floor and the water coming out of the electrical fixtures."

The five "galeros" — red hats belonging to the former cardinal archbishops of Chicago — were still hanging over the altar, Cardinal George said, although he could not say whether they had been damaged by water.

He also expressed relief no one was seriously injured and was grateful "the damage was not worse." One firefighter suffered a sprained back.

According to Father Dan Mayall, rector and pastor of Holy Name Cathedral, a worker who arrived around 5 a.m. reported the fire and set off alarms in the



CNS PHOTO BY MICHELLE MARTIN, CATHOLIC NEWS WORLD

Smoke rises from the roof of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago as firefighters work to put out a three-alarm fire the morning of Feb. 4. The fire, which broke out in the attic area between the ceiling and the roof, was reported by a worker shortly after 5 a.m. CST. Fire officials said that fire damage was confined to the roof and attic area, with water damage in the cathedral sanctuary and lower levels.

building. The pastor's chief of staff was notified, and he told the priests living in the rectory, which is a separate building attached to the cathedral.

The 11 priests who live there were evacuated as a precaution.

Father Mayall phoned the cardinal to alert him to the fire.

Repairs were being made in the area where the fire started. But workers had not been using blowtorches or anything else that would seem to create a fire hazard, and fire officials were "puzzled" as to the cause, the cardinal said.

Father Matthew Comptom, an associate pastor at the cathedral, was able to enter the sanctuary and remove the Eucharist from the tabernacle. He took it to a nearby chapel.

Mass was to be celebrated at its regularly scheduled times the weekend of Feb. 7-8 in the auditorium of the cathedral's parish center.

Holy Name Cathedral was built in 1875 to take the place of two churches that were destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871.

Pope John Paul II visited Holy Name during his 1979 visit to the United States. Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed in a concert that was part of the papal visit.

In 2003 a small fire, sparked by a Molotov cocktail, caused minor damage to Holy Name Cathedral. Police described the device as a plastic bottle filled with a flammable liquid and a lighted rag stuffed in the neck. It was tossed into the State Street vestibule of the cathedral just after noon.

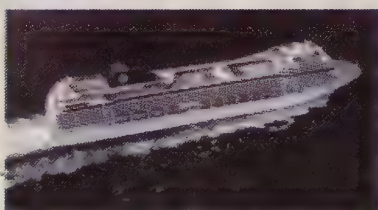
A service was going on inside, but no one saw the person who threw the container. The 100 or so people in the cathedral at the time were alerted by passers-by who saw smoke. The device was quickly extinguished.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Answering age-old questions;
oversimplifications and
misunderstandings

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FEBRUARY 13, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 15

'Constructive conversation'

Pope, German chancellor
discuss Holocaust-
denying bishop

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke to each other on the telephone about the recent controversy surrounding a traditionalist bishop who has denied the Holocaust.

"It was a cordial and constructive conversation, marked by a common and profound agreement that the Shoah is a perpetually valid warning for humanity," said a statement released Feb. 8 by the spokesmen for the pope and for Merkel.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, papal spokesman, said the conversation was marked by "a climate of great respect" and included mention

See HOLOCAUST, page 5

To 'satisfy the deepest hunger'



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID GRAY, REUTERS

A beggar hunches on a footpath behind a bowl as he begs for money from passing crowds visiting a fair at the Longtan Park temple in Beijing Jan. 30. United Nations statistics state that in 2008 the number of undernourished people in the world rose to 963 million. Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Christians to fast during Lent to focus on God and be in solidarity with the poor.

Pope says fasting in
Lent opens hearts to
God, hands to the poor

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Fasting from food and detaching oneself from material goods during Lent help believers open their hearts to God and open their hands to the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The Lenten fast helps Christians "mortify our egoism and open our hearts to love of God and neighbor," said the pope in his message for Lent 2009.

The papal message for Lent, which begins Feb. 25 for Latin-rite Catholics, was released Feb. 3 at the Vatican.

Cardinal Paul Cordes, president of the Pontifical

See LENT, page 9

To share the vibrancy, to understand the obstacles

Vatican orders study
of women religious
institutes in United States

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Vatican has initiated an apostolic visitation of institutes for women religious in the United States to find out why the numbers of their members have decreased during the past 40 years and to look at the quality of life in the communities.

See STUDY, page 12

At the heart of the matter

Young Catholic returns from year of
volunteering abroad

Auger to speak at
campus ministry retreat

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In 2006 Stephanie Auger attended a "Give Your Heart Away" community service weekend sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry.

That weekend had a profound impact on her life

and the direction it would take during the next two years — it was then that Auger was inspired to dedicate a year of her life to serving others.

"On the last day of the retreat, they had two or three people who had just volunteered come and give their personal accounts," said Auger, a parishioner of

See HEART, page 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Stephanie Auger is pictured in January with residents at an orphanage in the Dominican Republic where she spent a year doing volunteer work. "The kids there flock to visitors and you end up walking around with three or four hanging off of you at all times," she said of her visit to the orphanage.

Living sacraments

Deacons, wives explore
spirituality at workshop

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch

Insightful book on Holocaust;
online spiritual guidance

| PAGES 10-11

After the fire's fury

Archbishop pledges support
to wildfire victims

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HOLDING ONTO GOD'S GIFTS



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Trish Stone (front) holds her 9-month-old son, Patrick, as he plays with his twin brother, Mark, held by Cubby LaHood at her home in Silver Spring, Md., Jan. 30. LaHood co-founded Isaiah's Promise, a support group for couples facing a troubled pregnancy. Stone met with LaHood during her pregnancy when she learned Mark would have severe disabilities.

Mother of twins lives out her belief in everyone's God-given dignity

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — Trish Stone is a firm believer in the sanctity of life. Although she comes by this naturally because of her Catholic upbringing, her belief also has been tested.

During a routine sonogram last year when Stone was expecting twins, she received "a look" from her doctor that something wasn't "quite right."

And after a whirlwind of tests that day, one of the twins was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a condition that causes increased fluid pressure in the brain and swelling of the child's head that hinders normal neurological development.

Within the first hour of learning this news, Stone was advised to consider "selective reduction" — aborting the unhealthy twin to focus on the healthy one. She was told that if the unhealthy twin survived, he would not have any "quality of life."

Stone and her husband, Rich, had not been prepared for such a diagnosis. But there was no question that they would carry both babies to term despite fears of unknown future challenges.

"Thank God I grew up in a family with a strong faith. I knew in my heart that every life has a purpose," said Stone, who believed growing up with a sister with disabilities made this understanding all the more real.

Stone, a member of Holy Redeemer Church in Kensington, Md., said that more than anything she wanted to talk to people who had been through something similar. That's when she contacted Cubby LaHood, co-founder of Isaiah's Promise, a support group for couples

facing difficult pregnancies.

She met with LaHood several times and the two discussed Stone's fears as well as practical concerns. After the twins were born, LaHood went to the hospital where Mark, the twin with hydrocephalus, was transferred for multiple brain surgeries.

Nine months later, the young mother said she has never let herself "go down the road of 'why me?'"

Instead, she said she relied on her faith "more than ever" as she prayed for the strength to face either Mark's death or his disability.

"I didn't pray for him to be perfect. I just prayed that I would have the strength," she said.

And that strength has come — amid the difficulties — in small ways.

For example, the morning she was scheduled to deliver the twins, the Stones attended Mass at their parish and the priest prayed for their family during the intentions. When Stone heard the parishioners join in praying for them, she said she felt a powerful assurance that "things were going to work out."

Today, Stone's daily life with a toddler and two babies, including one who requires a number of doctor appointments, therapy sessions and seizure medication, is nothing short of a challenge.

But watching him smile at his twin brother, she said she often considers taking him to visit the doctors who warned about his lack of "quality of life."

She also can't help but think that "his life will touch someone in some way."

Obama orders faith-based office be reworked, its scope expanded

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama created by executive order Feb. 5 a White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which will expand upon and rework the Bush administration's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The office's top priority, according to the White House release, will be "making community groups an integral part of our economic recovery and poverty a burden fewer have to bear when recovery is complete."

It also will focus on reducing demand for abortions, encouraging fathers to stand by their families and working with the National Security Council to "foster interfaith dialogue with leaders and scholars around the world."

In the same order, Obama created a new President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, comprised of 25 leaders of religious and community organizations, including Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic

Charities USA, and Arturo Chavez, president of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio.

The council will advise the White House and federal agencies on a range of topics, from hiring policies for private agencies that accept federal funds to how national security issues are affected by religious beliefs.

At the National Prayer Breakfast earlier the same day, Obama said the goal of the office "will not be to favor one religious group over another — or even religious groups over secular groups. It will simply be to work on behalf of those organizations that want to work on behalf of our communities, and to do so without blurring the line that our founders wisely drew between church and state."

He said such work is important because "few are closer to what's happening on our streets and in our neighborhoods than these organizations. People trust them. Communities rely on them. And we will help them."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

an upcoming *Theology on Tap* series, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert." This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizza/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. The second session will take place Feb. 19, when Father Patrick Toole will present "Holy Thursday and the Last Supper." Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an *introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality* led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be Feb. 21 on "God's Inner Life." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., is offering a *weeklong guided Ignatian Lenten Retreat*. The opening session will be Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Biss Hall (beneath the church) and the closing session will be March 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at the conclusion of the retreat. Registration is required for individuals interested in the guided retreat. If you are unable to make the guided retreat, you are invited to attend the opening and/or closing session[s]. The retreat and parking in the Green Parking Garage are free. To register or for more information, call (704) 332-2901 or visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — A five-day *Lenten retreat* will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 28-March 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan of the Augustinian Preaching Apostolate will conduct the retreat with the topics "To Be Born Again," "The Healing Love of Jesus," "The Call to be Church" and "Our Response to the Call." For more information, call Barbara Wilde at (828) 697-9058 or e-mail johnwilde@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. A special Mass for Theology on Tap will be held March 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church. To RSVP, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to attend

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FEBRUARY 13, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 15

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official asks Europe to support Africa, Middle East

ROME (CNS) — European nations must do more to promote development and the end of violence in Africa, take an active role in promoting peace in the Holy Land and work for the good of their own citizens by protecting the traditional family, said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

The cardinal, Pope Benedict XVI's top aide and secretary of state, met Feb. 10 with ambassadors to the Vatican from member nations of the European Union.

"You must fight the temptation to establish contacts with African nations with an exclusive aim of gaining the greatest possible profit," the cardinal told the ambassadors during the meeting at the Czech Embassy to the Holy See.

European involvement in Africa must aim instead at helping Africans become the protagonists of their own cultural, civic, economic and social development, he said. For that to happen, the nations need material assistance and

encouragement to resolve the conflicts under way, address injustices and help the hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced people.

Cardinal Bertone also urged the European Union and its member nations to take a more active role in pressing for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing tensions in the Holy Land.

Peace throughout the Middle East, he said, depends on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that will happen only with the realization of the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security in their own states.

As for the Gaza Strip, torn by fighting in late December and January, Cardinal Bertone said it was a priority "to guarantee the access of humanitarian aid destined for the civilian population" and to insist that both sides resolve their differences with negotiations, not violence.

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are offering a *domestic violence prevention workshop in Spanish* for men and women at St. John Neumann Church at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19. For more information, call Father Russ Ortega at (704) 536-6520.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes are held for 30 minutes on Tuesdays at the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Banquet Center, 9009 Bryant Farms Rd. Classes are free, but registration is required. Applications are currently being accepted for the spring session. Space is still available and classes will start in February. For more information or to receive an application, call (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room March 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex the weekends of Feb. 21-22 and Feb. 28-March 1. Walk-ins will be taken as time permits. Donors must bring a picture ID. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — A *monthly respect life Mass* will be celebrated every fourth Saturday at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., beginning Feb. 28 at 9 a.m. Following Mass there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There also will be an opportunity to go and pray a rosary at a local abortion clinic. The morning will conclude with Benediction. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

MINT HILL — A *Lenten preparation program for adults* will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Saturday afternoons during Lent from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The first session will be Feb. 28. Sister Veronica Grover will lead the study on the documents and teachings of the church and how we can relate these to modern times. Donations of canned goods will

be collected to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 545-1224.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host *HOSEA (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again)* for those who have been away from the faith and are interested in getting reacquainted with the Catholic Church. The next session will be Feb. 18 from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Come and have your questions answered. For more information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097 or call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

GREENSBORO — "*Hollywood vs. Faith: The Struggle to Live Faithfully in the Media Age*" will be presented by Emmy award-winning actor Frank Runyeon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m. Drawing on examples from his 25 years in television, film and radio, Runyeon will encourage suggestions on how to watch TV from the "inside out." This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeannine Martin at (336) 294-4696 ext. 225.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — In an effort to give practical help to married and engaged couples to live out the teaching of the Church, a *course in natural family planning* will be held Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For more information and registration, call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican conference will give intelligent design critical study

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An upcoming Vatican-sponsored conference on evolution will include critical study of the theory of intelligent design, which, organizers said, represents poor theology and science.

While proponents of intelligent design were not invited to give presentations at the March 3-7 international conference, organizers agreed to discuss how it appeared and developed as a cultural ideology, not as science.

A number of presentations will discuss intelligent design's "long and complex genesis" in a historical context and its impact on society and culture because it is "certainly not discussable in the scientific, philosophic and theological fields," said Saverio Forestiero, zoology professor at Rome's Tor Vergata University and a member of the conference's organizing committee.

Forestiero was one of the speakers at a Vatican press conference Feb. 10 presenting the March event, titled "Biological Evolution: Facts and Theories."

The Pontifical Council for Culture, Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University

and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana are organizing the international conference to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species" and the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Jesuit Father Marc Leclerc, a philosophy professor at the Gregorian, said the conference was in no way a "celebration in honor of the English scientist." He said it would be an occasion to critically assess an event that permanently altered the history of science and changed the way people understand humanity.

The conference will look at "a correct exegesis" of biblical accounts of creation, said Father Leclerc.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, head of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the author of Genesis was not trying to explain the scientific origins of nature, but rather to respond to the theological question "What meaning does mankind have in the cosmos?"

Father Leclerc said that "people of faith, even philosophers, can see God's presence" in the world and recognize he has a plan for humanity.

Serving the sick and suffering



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., is accompanied by nurse Phyllis Benanti as he blesses patient Sam Keller at Good Shepherd Hospice Inpatient Center in Port Jefferson, N.Y., Jan. 14. World Day of the Sick, observed annually Feb. 11 on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, affirms the church's duty to remember and serve the sick and the suffering.

Church leaders urge Madagascar factions to talk after deadly violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian leaders in Madagascar have urged political factions to enter into dialogue after recent political violence, reported the Vatican's missionary news agency.

Fides reported Feb. 10 that Catholic Archbishop Odon Razanakolona of Antananarivo, president of the Forum of Christian Churches in Madagascar, "has sharply criticized" the bloodshed in which the presidential guard opened fire on demonstrators in the capital Antananarivo Feb. 7. The forum "has asked the two sides to enter into dialogue."

Pope Benedict XVI said Feb. 8 the

bishops of the island designated that day as a day of prayer for reconciliation and social justice.

"Deeply concerned about the particularly critical moment the country is living through, I invite you to join Malagasy Catholics in entrusting to the Lord those who have died in the demonstrations and in asking him, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the return of harmony among people, social tranquility and civil coexistence," the pope said.

More than 100 have died in political unrest since January.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 18 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Feb. 20 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 21 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for candidates in Permanent
Diaconate Formation Program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 1 (4 p.m.)
Rite of Election
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

'To become a living sacrament'



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Joseph Zuschmidt talks to Deacon Andy Cilone during the permanent deacons and wives continuing education session held at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis Feb. 7.

Deacons, wives explore spirituality as part of continuing education

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

KANNAPOLIS — Permanent deacons recently examined how to foster and express spirituality for the good of themselves and the community.

Thirty-eight permanent deacons and wives took part in a continuing education class at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis Feb. 7.

All active permanent deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte are required to participate in continuing education for spiritual and personal growth, as well as an annual retreat and an annual recommitment to the bishop.

The recent class was led by Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Joseph Zuschmidt, parochial vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

Father Zuschmidt shared with the group the humility and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, and the work of his fellow Oblates, a congregation of priests and brothers who base their spirituality on the saint's teachings.

The Oblates serve the church around the world as parish priests, chaplains, missionaries, teachers and more.

Father Zuschmidt told the group that Catholic spirituality is rooted firmly in the sacraments. It is through them, he said, "that we are able to live a holy life as devout or holy Catholics who are committed to the church, to ministry, to spouses and to children."

The beginning of all spirituality, said Father Zuschmidt, is the "recognition that there is something beyond 'me.'"

"For Christians, that something is Jesus Christ, who is the image of the living God," said Father Zuschmidt. "Jesus is the first and greatest sacrament, for he is the first outward sign given by God."

The second greatest sacrament, said Father Zuschmidt, "is the church, left here by Jesus."

"If we want to know who Jesus is, we must look to the church, which is the 'body of Christ' — the Christian community," he said.

Because God is in every event of our

lives, said Father Zuschmidt, we each must have a "rule of life to prepare us for what will happen during the course of the day."

"Practice patience to confront those various opportunities each day presents. Then, worship God through private prayer and minister at home, as well as to others," he said.

"Above all, live Jesus so as to become a living sacrament with compassion, forgiveness and a prayerful relationship with God," he said. "That is a lifelong effort, which will reap its own rewards."

Deacon Walter Haarsgaard of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point said he "came to learn about the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales" but was "humbly reminded to address my own spirituality on a daily basis."

"I must go out every day and live my spirituality, even though I don't think about how it plays into everything we do," he said.

"I need to start making a reflection of the day — to cultivate my own life style, to make it grow so that I can live Jesus each day," he said.



The permanent diaconate is funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.

Did You Know?

A permanent deacon is an ordained minister permitted to preach; assist priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and administer blessings during certain liturgical rites.

The permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married. However, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination.

Firefighters come to rescue at Holy Angels Residents respond with gratitude for assistance

BELMONT — A burst water pipe recently caused quite the commotion at Holy Angels in Belmont.

The pipe burst in the evening of Jan. 17 in Moody Place, a 15-room intermediate care facility for residents of Holy Angels, a nonprofit corporation that provides services for children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities.

The rupture sent water gushing into the facility at 25 gallons per minute, forcing the evacuation of residents. The water ran directly to the emergency sprinkler head, activating the alarm and summoning the Belmont Fire Department.

The firefighters' quick response to shut off the water resulted in only 125 gallons of water being released. They then pitched in to help remove as much of the water as possible before leaving to answer another call.

"Although firemen are normally known for extinguishing fires with gallons of water, we found out rapidly how very helpful they can be in helping to remove the water," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels president and CEO.

"As a result of their rapid response, we don't even anticipate that the floor of the room where this happened will need to be replaced," she said.

Several of the firefighters later returned to offer further assistance, Moody added.

"The Belmont firemen who responded to Holy Angels that night were exemplary. Their commitment to the Belmont community, especially to Holy Angels is evident, not only on this day but many times prior," said Kerri Massey, Holy Angels chief program officer.

"They are truly heroes to the residents and staff of Holy Angels," she said.

Since the firefighters' dinner had been interrupted to respond to the Holy Angels alarm, Mercy Sister Nancy Nance, Holy Angels outreach services vice president, and Robert and Mike, Holy Angels residents, delivered soup and sandwiches from Cherubs Café.

The café, run by Holy Angels, provides vocational training and employment for residents.

While visiting the fire station, Robert and Mike were treated to a ride in the fire truck.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Holy Angels, visit www.holyangelsnc.org or call (704) 825-4161.



COURTESY PHOTO BY MERCY SISTER NANCY NANCE

Robert (second from left) and Mike (fourth from right), residents of Holy Angels in Belmont, are pictured with Belmont firefighters Jan. 23 after delivering soup and sandwiches to the fire station.



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FROM THE COVER

Remembering the Holocaust: A scientific fact, a religious obligation

Anti-Semitism condemned in clearest terms, Vatican official says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Acknowledging and remembering the Holocaust is not only a matter of historical honesty; it is a religious obligation, especially for bishops, several Vatican officials said.

When Pope Benedict XVI publicly distanced himself from the Holocaust-denying views of traditionalist Bishop Richard Williamson and the Vatican Secretariat of State called on the bishop Feb. 4 to publicly disavow his views, they were not simply responding to a public uproar.

"Denial of the Holocaust by a person who should know better is indistinguishable from an anti-Semitic prejudice," said Bishop Brian Farrell, vice president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

"Anti-Semitism has been condemned by the Second Vatican Council in the clearest terms," he said.

Bishop Williamson is one of the four bishops whose excommunications were lifted in late January by Pope Benedict. The bishops had been excommunicated in 1988 after being ordained against papal orders by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

Just a few days before the Vatican made public the fact that the pope had lifted the excommunications, a television interview with Bishop Williamson aired; in the interview he claimed that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

At his weekly general audience Jan. 28, Pope Benedict affirmed the obligation to remember the Holocaust as a concrete example of "the unpredictable power of evil when it conquers the heart of man. May the Shoah be a warning for all against forgetfulness, denial or reductionism because violence committed against one single human being is violence against all."

A religious concern

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the papal spokesman, said that to deny the Holocaust is to deny "the most obvious manifestation" of the presence of evil in the world.

"A religious person, a Christian must face the challenge to faith represented by this fact, by evil in the world," he told Catholic News Service Feb. 5.

Unless a person recognizes the reality and enormity of evil in the world, he or she cannot understand why Jesus had to die in order to ransom humanity, Father Lombardi said.

Denying the Holocaust is a sign of not understanding the reality of evil and, "therefore, of not living the faith," he said. "For this reason, it seems right to me that a bishop who denies the Shoah is better off growing potatoes or doing anything else, but not being a bishop."

Father Lombardi said denying the Holocaust "is an obvious error," but whether or not it is a sin depends on whether the person is conscious that it is

erroneous and affirms it anyway.

"In that case, it is a serious sin of lying mixed, in addition, with components of racism and anti-Semitism," the papal spokesman said.

Bishop Farrell told CNS Feb. 5 that there are several reasons why "the Shoah is a religious concern."

First, he said, "every destruction of human dignity, every murder of a human being is an evil that goes against God's plan. In that sense, it is an issue for religion."

"There is a second reason that is much more specific to the Shoah and it is that the Shoah took place in the heart of what was supposedly the Christian continent, Europe," he said.

Prevailing attitudes

Rabbi David Rosen, chairman of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee, said there is a well-documented connection between centuries of Christian teaching of contempt for the Jews — blaming them for the death of Christ — and the atmosphere that allowed the Nazis' attempts to destroy European Jewry to nearly succeed.

"When the church declares anti-Semitism a sin against God and man, it is demonstrating a fundamental sea change in prevailing Catholic attitudes toward Jews," the rabbi told CNS. "Arguably nothing raises a question mark over that change as much as expressing or tolerating Holocaust denial."

In an article for the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Italian historian Anna Foa wrote that Holocaust denial is a lie cloaked in scientific jargon "to cover its true origins, its true motive: anti-Semitism."

Bishop Farrell said the testimony of the survivors of the Nazi death camps, the remains of the camps themselves and the meticulous documentation kept by the Nazis prove that the Holocaust and the death of 6 million Jews is a historical fact that can be denied "only through ignorance or prejudice."

"That is why it becomes an issue when a bishop, who should be a teacher of truth and of goodness, denies the Holocaust," he said.

"The fact that the pope asked the bishop to reject these opinions and to apologize for them results from the fact that a denial of the Holocaust by a person who should know better is indistinguishable from an anti-Semitic prejudice," Bishop Farrell said.

After visiting a Nazi death camp in Poland in 2006, Pope Benedict said, "May contemporary humanity never forget Auschwitz or the other 'death factories' where the Nazi regime attempted to eliminate God in order to replace him."

"May it not succumb to the temptation of racial hatred, which is at the root of the worst forms of anti-Semitism."

"May people recognize once again that God is the Father of all and calls us all, in Christ, to build a world of justice, truth and peace together."

Pope, German chancellor discuss Holocaust-denying bishop

HOLOCAUST, from page 1

of Pope Benedict's Jan. 28 statement about the importance of remembering the Holocaust and Merkel's Feb. 3 request that the Vatican make it clear that it would not tolerate Holocaust denial.

The controversy began in late January when a television station aired a November interview with Bishop Richard Williamson, who was excommunicated in 1988 after being ordained against papal orders.

The late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who ordained him, and three other bishops ordained at the same ceremony also were excommunicated.

The interview aired just before the Vatican published the news that Pope Benedict had signed a decree lifting the excommunications of the four bishops.

The Vatican Secretariat of State issued a further statement Feb. 4, the day after Merkel's public request, stating that Bishop Williamson would not be received into full communion with the church unless he disavowed in "an absolutely unequivocal and public manner" his statement that reports of 6 million Jews dying in the Holocaust were an exaggeration and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

In an interview published Feb. 7 by the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, Bishop Williamson said he was willing to review the historical evidence about the Holocaust, and "if I find this evidence, I will correct myself. But that will take time."

Social separation

Bishop Williamson e-mailed *Der Spiegel* from Argentina where he had been the head of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years.

The Argentine newspaper *La Nacion* reported Feb. 8 that Bishop Williamson has been removed as the rector of the seminary.

In an e-mail to the newspaper, Father Christian Bouchacourt, the society's South American district director, said Bishop Williamson had been removed from his duties, and he repeated the society's position that "the affirmations of Bishop Williamson do not reflect in any way the position of our congregation."

In the meantime, Father Davide Pagliarani, superior of the society's Italian district, issued a statement Feb. 6 saying that another Holocaust denier, Father Floriano Abrahamowicz, had been expelled from the Society of St. Pius X.

As the controversy surrounding Bishop Williamson grew in late January and early February, Father Abrahamowicz gave several interviews in which he, too, denied the Holocaust and in which he claimed that the Nazi gas chambers were used to disinfect inmates upon arrival at Nazi



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI speaks during an audience with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Vatican Feb. 12. Denying or minimizing the Holocaust "is intolerable and altogether unacceptable," Pope Benedict told the group of U.S. Jewish leaders.

concentration camps.

The Society of St. Pius X was founded in 1969 by Archbishop Lefebvre. It does not accept the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and its concepts of religious freedom and ecumenism.

Reaffirming commitment

Pope Benedict was scheduled to meet Feb. 12 with more than 60 U.S. Jewish leaders, members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

A Vatican official told Catholic News Service Feb. 9 that the group had requested the papal audience before the Bishop Williamson controversy erupted, but that obviously the German-born pope would use the occasion to reaffirm his respect for the Jews and his position that the Holocaust was real and that it was a horrific proof of the existence of evil.

Top officers of the World Jewish Congress met at the Vatican Feb. 9 with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

Ronald S. Lauder, president of the congress, said in a statement that he and the other officers told Cardinal Kasper that the Vatican's insistence that Bishop Williamson recant "was a welcome first step," but that concrete actions must be taken to emphasize that the Catholic Church itself will not tolerate "accommodating anti-Semites."

Lauder said he hoped the pope would be able to make his planned May visit to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"We are looking forward to the pope's visit to the Holy Land," he said. "This will be an opportunity to reaffirm the Vatican's commitment to dialogue with Jews."

RESPECT LIFE

Saving graces

Vatican says Englaro's death must lead to better ways to protect life

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Feb. 9 death of Eluana Englaro after nutrition and hydration were withheld should lead Italian citizens and their government to find more effective ways to protect and promote human life, said the Vatican spokesman.

"In the name of Eluana we must continue to seek more effective ways to serve life," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman.

Englaro, who had been in a persistent vegetative state for more than 17 years, died at a private clinic in Udine, Italy, less than a week after her doctors, with the support of her father, began withholding nutrition and hydration.

By Feb. 7, doctors said she was receiving only sedatives.

News of her death interrupted an Italian parliamentary debate on an emergency measure to make it illegal to withhold nutrition and hydration from patients who are disabled or in a persistent vegetative state; the measure would have forced Englaro's doctors to begin giving her nutrients and water again.

Vatican officials repeatedly have said that the provision of nutrition and hydration is an obligatory, basic part of caring for a person who cannot care for him or herself; it is not an extraordinary means of keeping someone alive and cannot be withdrawn.

During his Feb. 8 Angelus address, Pope Benedict XVI did not mention Englaro by name, but he offered prayers for "all of the sick, especially those in a most serious condition who cannot provide for themselves in any way, but are totally dependent on the care of others. May each of them experience, through the care of those who are close to them, the power of the love of God and the richness of his saving grace."

Englaro, 38, was seriously injured in a car accident in January 1992. After she had been in a persistent vegetative state for five years, her father began a legal battle to win permission to withdraw the nasogastric tube through which she was being provided nutrition and hydration.

In a commentary on Vatican Radio Feb. 10, Father Lombardi said, "In the face of her death, believers gather in prayer and entrust to the Lord the soul of Eluana, a person whom we love and who has become part of our lives in the last few months."

"Now that Eluana is at peace, we hope that her situation — after so much discussion — will be a motive for calm reflection and for a responsible search for better ways to accompany the weakest people with all due respect for the rights to life, love and attentive care," he said.

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, told reporters Feb. 9 that the Christian response to Englaro's death must be to pray that God "would open the gates of heaven to her after she suffered so much on earth."

He also said he was praying that God



CNS PHOTO BY DANIEL RAUING, REUTERS

Candles are seen near a photo of car accident victim Eluana Englaro at La Quiete clinic in Udine, Italy, Feb. 10. Englaro, who had been in a persistent vegetative state for 17 years, died at the clinic Feb. 9 after her father won a court battle to withhold food and water. The Italian Senate had been debating emergency legislation that would have forced the clinic to resume feeding her.

would "forgive those who brought her to this point. And I invite everyone to pray in the spirit of forgiveness."

In November Italy's supreme court upheld a lower court ruling that Englaro's care could be interrupted because of the "extraordinary duration" of her condition and because she had made it clear before the accident that she would not want her life artificially prolonged.

Once the court ruled, Englaro's father spent several months trying to find a private clinic that would accept her as a patient, but not continue giving her nutrition and hydration.

She had been in a clinic run by the Misericordine Sisters, who not only refused to withhold food and water, but also made it clear they wanted to continue caring for Englaro.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi made no public comments

'The healing hand of Christ'

Hospitals won't comply with unjust laws and won't close, bishop says

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (CNS) — The Catholic Health Association's board of trustees recently reaffirmed its opposition to any attempts by Congress or President Barack Obama to broaden abortion access and its commitment to keep Catholic hospitals open, Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg said in a Feb. 6 blog entry.

"Idle threats about the certain closing of Catholic hospitals if certain things happen are simply that — idle," said the bishop and CHA board member, writing about the board's Feb. 4-6 retreat in the St. Petersburg area.

"We are here today and will be here tomorrow to provide the healing hand of Christ to others as long as we can financially survive in a challenging situation and comply fully with our ethical and religious directives," he added in his blog on the diocese's Web site.

The U.S. bishops' "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" guide Catholic health care facilities in addressing ethical questions such as abortion, euthanasia, care for the poor, medical research and other issues.

Although the CHA gathering "was essentially a planning retreat," the board re-emphasized "some actions taken at

previous meetings," Bishop Lynch said.

CHA "will join with the church and all other pro-life parties to vigorously oppose any and all attempts by this Congress or administration to broaden abortion access," he said.

"Catholic hospitals will not allow abortions to be performed in their facilities" and will not comply with any laws mandating abortion or other procedures that violate the ethical and religious directives, "even if our actions constitute civil disobedience," he added.

"No Catholic institution or employee of an institution can or will be made to violate the dictates of their conscience resulting from federal or state legislative action," Bishop Lynch said.

He said Catholic hospitals "won't comply" with laws that violate conscience "but we will not close."

Among the reasons he cited were that:

— Catholic hospitals are sometimes the sole provider of health care in a large geographical area, especially in rural areas.

— The hospitals have an obligation to their physicians, nurses and other employees; to their bondholders; and "to the poor, unprotected and to our communities which benefit from our presence."

about the case until Feb. 5 when he announced his government was issuing a decree to stop Englaro's doctors from withdrawing nutrition and hydration.

But Italian President Giorgio Napolitano refused to sign the decree, saying it was constitutionally questionable, and encouraged parliamentary action instead.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, had a telephone conversation with Napolitano Feb. 7 to discuss the Englaro case.

The Vatican said Cardinal Bertone expressed his "deep appreciation for the speed with which the Parliament was preparing to approve the bill."

Berlusconi's government Feb. 6

introduced the bill in Parliament to make it illegal to withhold nutrition and hydration in cases like Englaro's.

When her death was announced, Berlusconi told reporters: "I feel great sadness. I am deeply disappointed that the government's action to save a life was made impossible."

"I did everything I could and it is not my fault that the culture of death won and not the culture of life," the prime minister said.

After Englaro's death, members of Parliament were debating whether to continue working on the emergency legislation or to return to parliamentary committees to continue work on broader bills dealing with end-of-life issues.

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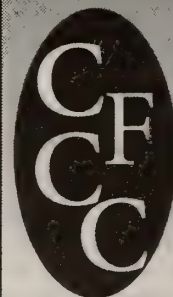


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FROM THE COVER

Young Catholic returns from year of volunteering abroad

HEART, from page 1

St. James the Greater Church in Concord.

"Hearing other people talk about their own experiences, that made me really want to do it," she said.

"I decided I didn't want to just go straight into graduate school or a job," said Auger. "I new I wanted to do something; I just wasn't sure what."

Fast forward three years and Auger has just returned from a year of volunteering in the Dominican Republic.

This weekend Feb. 13-16, she will attend the fifth annual "Give Your Heart Away" community service weekend at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. But this time she will be the one giving a first-hand account of her experience.

Good Samaritani

Auger first traveled to the Dominican Republic on a two-week medical mission last January with a group called Intercultural Nursing.

She assisted the group of nurses at a medical clinic in a remote area on the western part of the island near the border of Haiti.

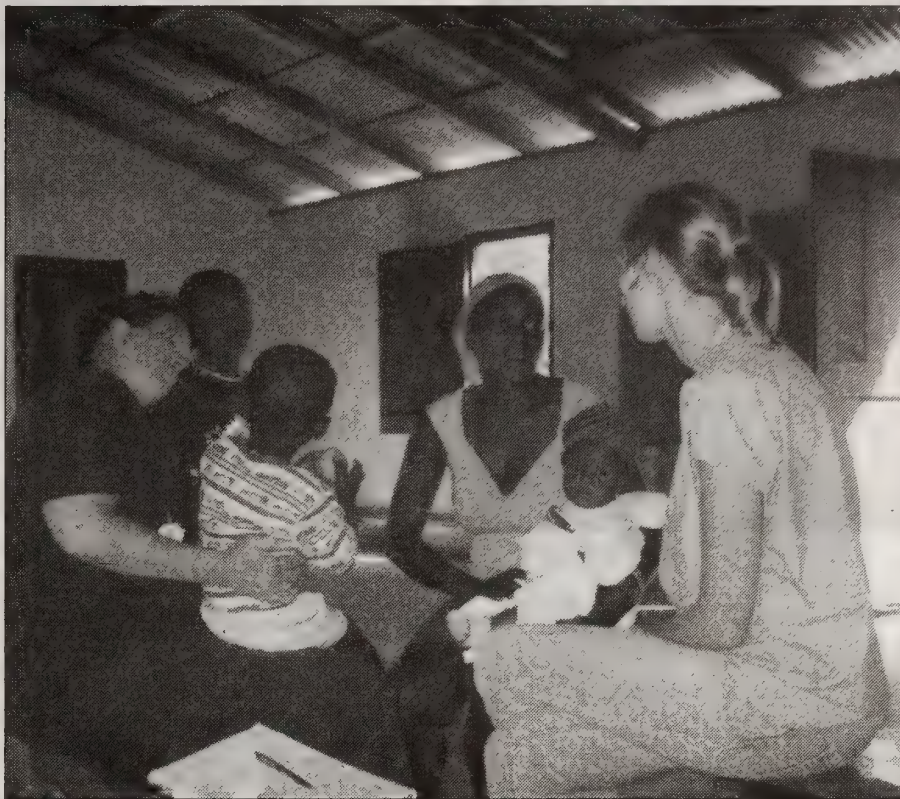
While there, she was introduced to Sister of St. Joseph Beatrice Barry from Long Island, N.Y., who has been serving the sick of the Dominican Republic for the past 30 years.

Sister Barry offered Auger a spot serving at her medical hospitality house, La Posada del Buen Samaritano, or "The Inn of the Good Samaritan."

Within two-weeks of returning home from the medical mission, Auger boarded a plane and went back.

"This was the craziest decision I've ever made in my life, but I couldn't imagine not going back," said Auger. "You don't say no to something like that."

While volunteering at the hospitality



COURTESY PHOTO

In this January 2008 photo, Stephanie Auger is seen interpreting for a nurse at a clinic in Elías Piña, a small town on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. At the time, Auger was serving on a two-week medical mission with Intercultural Nursing. The children in the picture were seeking treatment for parasites.

house, Auger worked closely with sick people from both the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Auger lived in the house with Sister Barry and anywhere from 15 to 20 patients at time, mostly children with cancer, HIV, AIDS, severe burns or orthopedic problems.

The most rewarding part of the experience was "the relationships I formed with the kids in the house," said Auger.

There was one child in particular, Alberto, a 16-year-old Haitian who was being treated for lymphoma.

"He was the love of my life," Auger said. "We really bonded."

Auger received daily Spanish tutoring for the first two-and-a-half months of her stay. But for the most part,

she wasn't given a lot of time to ease into her surroundings. Driving in Santo Domingo definitely took some getting used to.

"There's no rules," she said jokingly, and "they don't pay attention to the lights."

Her daily responsibilities included driving patients to hospitals, clinics and labs; food shopping; and buying medication.

"If they were kids and they couldn't really talk to the doctor, I would talk for them," she said.

Adjusting and focusing

When Auger speaks at "Give Your Heart Away" this weekend, she plans to share how the experience has impacted her life.

"It's changed me, in a good way," she said.

She wants the students to know how fulfilling a volunteer experience, like the one she had, can be.

Although she credits the good

work of the many domestic volunteer organizations here in the United States, she said there is definitely something to be gained from living abroad.

"I think it's really important for people to leave the United States to see how other people live," she said. "You become so appreciative of everything you have."

Auger is also likely to share some of the challenges she encountered while living in a developing country — such as not being able to drink the water, take hot showers or flush toilet paper down the toilet.

"I ate rice and beans almost every day for a year," she said.

And she had to adapt culturally.

"It's hard to be a woman, especially an American woman in the Dominican Republic," said Auger who had a difficult time blending in with her tall frame, fair skin, blue eyes and blonde hair.

"It was hard adjusting to all the attention I was getting as a white person," she said.

Her experience also has changed her plans for the future.

"Before, I wasn't really thinking about any kind of job where I would be serving others," she said.

Now, she is considering going to nursing school or graduate school for international studies.

Sowing seeds

Whether she goes into the medical profession, works for a nonprofit organizations or immigration services, she knows that she wants a job that is focused on helping others.

"In campus ministry we sow seeds of faith, hope and justice, and we pray that our students will answer the call to do more for our church," said Mary Wright, director of diocesan campus ministry.

"Stephanie (Auger) is a great example of a student saying 'yes' and giving back to the community through service," she said.

This year approximately 70 college students from around the diocese are expected to participate in the "Give Your Heart Away" weekend.

On Saturday the students will take part in a variety of service projects at several locations in the Hickory area.

Afterwards, they will have a chance to reflect on the service projects in the context of Catholic social teaching, as well as spend time in prayer and fellowship.

On Sunday there will be a panel discussion on living a life of service, at which time Auger will share her story.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.



Catholic campus ministry is funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.

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A look at Lent



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The Angelotti family prays before sharing a meatless meal at their home in Centreville, Va., Feb. 4. They have made Operation Rice Bowl a centerpiece on the family table during Lent. The nationwide alms-giving program coordinated by encourages participants to learn about hunger and poverty around the globe and then to make donations to help those most in need.

A general introduction to the season

Lent is the season the Catholic Church gives us to take stock and review our lives, to root out all that is not good and true and replace it with the faithful and the holy.

In these 40 days, the Catholic Church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in the year 2009 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forbearers.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God, which no worldly thing can satisfy. Almsgiving reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inextricably intertwined, and that we bear responsibility for each other. Prayer reminds us to center our lives on God who alone gives meaning to all we do.

Lent is a most special time. The liturgies and devotions of Lent call us to a kind of spiritual "spring cleaning," identifying relationships that are disordered and sins that imprison and then seeking forgiveness and healing.

We root out the darkness of sin so as to enter the Easter mysteries with a clean heart bathed in the healing, life-giving light of Christ.

Guidelines for Lent

1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2) Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, and Good Friday, April 10, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3) The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4) Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5) The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining.

The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6) Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.

The 1983 war and peace pastoral letter of the U.S. bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7) Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8) The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter.

Group reconciliation services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group reconciliation service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9) The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

10) Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11) The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The rite of election is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

To transform the world

Operation Rice Bowl a way to help poor during Lent

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the U.S. bishops' international aid and development agency. Founded in 1943 to assist the displaced populations of war-torn Europe, CRS now brings humanitarian relief efforts to poor people in nearly 100 countries.

Inspired by the loving message of Jesus Christ in all its works, CRS invites the U.S. Catholic community to join in its mission to respond to natural disasters, combat poverty, bring clean water to villages, help farmers grow the food needed for their families and communities, and fight illnesses such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

Working closely with the U.S. bishops, CRS promotes a vision of human dignity, human development and peace building consistent with the moral vision espoused by the Catholic Church. All people — without regard to race, religion or nationality — are recipients of the charitable efforts of CRS. And such efforts are very effective, with 94 percent of each dollar donated to CRS going directly to programs.

CRS also is a determined advocate on Capitol Hill for the world's poor, making sure members of Congress address the global scourges of disease, hunger and poverty. CRS lobbies the government on behalf of initiatives based on Catholic moral principles that are designed to bring relief to millions of people worldwide.

An example of such an initiative is the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which enables many people worldwide to receive life-saving medical treatments.

I believe very strongly in the work of CRS. Since 1997, I have worked as a volunteer with the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Justice and Peace, a component of Catholic Social Services, on the Diocesan CRS Advisory Committee.

This committee is comprised of volunteers from across the diocese who promote CRS's work and disaster relief appeals, and, importantly, encourage participation in CRS's Operation Rice Bowl.

During Lent, Operation Rice Bowl participants pledge to pray, fast in solidarity with those around the world who suffer from hunger, learn about the global community and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

With Lent just around the corner, parishes nationwide are preparing for the 2009 Operation Rice Bowl collection —

Guest Column

DEACON EDWARD
KONARSKI
GUEST COLUMNIST



CRS's primary fundraising mechanism.

This year's theme is "Solidarity Will Transform the World." Of the funds raised through Operation Rice Bowl, the majority goes through CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Md., to fund international development projects. A smaller portion remains in the Diocese of Charlotte to provide funding for the \$1,000 Operation Rice Bowl mini-grants that support local hunger and poverty-alleviation efforts.

The Diocesan CRS Advisory Committee evaluates the applications for these grants. This past fall, eight parishes received mini-grants.

CRS is making changes for the better in communities worldwide. I encourage you to learn more about CRS (www.crs.org) and its many programs. If you are a parent or educator, or if you just want to broaden your children's knowledge of global issues, consider visiting the CRS education Web site (<http://education.crs.org>) for valuable educational resources.

In his 2009 World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI called Catholics worldwide to build peace by fighting poverty. In solidarity, the U.S. bishops and CRS will launch the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign Feb. 23.

I hope you will join me, and thousands of other Catholics, in responding to this campaign's invitation to learn about global poverty issues. The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace will share details of this campaign with parishes in early March.

Please pray with me for the hundreds of millions of people suffering from a lack of life's most basic necessities. I encourage you to be generous to those in need in our own communities and around the world. And please be a voice for the voiceless by advocating for policies that benefit our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Deacon Konarski is a permanent deacon and Operation Rice Bowl coordinator at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

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Pope says fasting in Lent opens hearts to God

LENT, from page 1

Council Cor Unum, the Vatican's office for promoting and coordinating charity, told reporters that Christian fasting brings together love for God and love for neighbor.

"The pope reminds us of our obligation to open our hearts and our hands to those in need," he said at the Vatican presentation of the message.

The Vatican invited Josette Sheeran, the U.N.'s World Food Program executive director, to help present the papal message.

"Serving the hungry is a moral call that unites people of all faiths," said Sheeran, whose organization relies heavily on Catholic charities and other faith-based organizations to distribute food aid. "At this time of worldwide economic challenges, let us not forget that the food and financial crises hit the world's most vulnerable the hardest. Since 2007, 115 million were added to the ranks of the hungry to create a total of nearly 1 billion people without adequate food."

Sheeran said that at a time when the U.S. and other governments are announcing multitrillion-dollar packages to bailout banks, car companies and other industries, the World Food Program is asking that 0.7 percent of all stimulus plans be dedicated to hunger relief.

"Financial rescue packages must serve not only Wall Street and Main Street, but also the places with no streets," she said.

Cardinal Cordes and Sheeran agreed that the financial bailout plans are necessary not just for helping the world's richest nations, but also for preventing a worsening situation in poor countries dependent on exports, on development aid and on the money their citizens working abroad send home to support their families.

"If the financial system fails completely, it will hurt the poor first," Cardinal Cordes said.

Sheeran said the 2007-2008 food crisis — when the price of basic staples soared

"Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live."

— Pope Benedict XVI

— combined with more recent job losses because of the financial crisis involved "two separate problems, but the result is the same: malnutrition and death."

'The deepest hunger'

In his message, Pope Benedict said the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are meant to help Christians focus on God and prepare for the Easter celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Focusing his message specifically on the practice of fasting, the pope said it is a way for believers to submit themselves "humbly to God, trusting in his goodness and mercy."

"Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by his saving word," the pope wrote.

"Through fasting and prayer we allow him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God," he said.

While some people fast to cleanse their body or to lose weight, Christians fast during Lent in order "to heal all that prevents them from conformity to the will of God," he said.

"Freely chosen detachment from the pleasure of food and other material goods helps the disciple of Christ to control the appetites of nature, weakened by original sin," the pope wrote.

At the same time, he said, "fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live."

By fasting in solidarity with the poor, "freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger," the pope said.

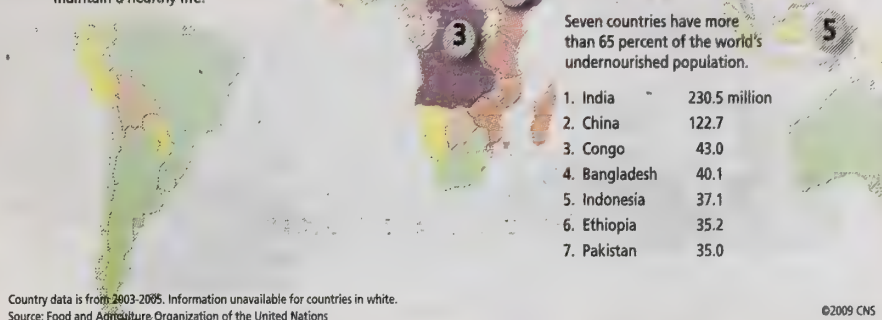
World Hunger

About 963 million people — 14 percent of the world's population — are undernourished.

UNDERNOURISHED POPULATION

- 41% or more
- 31-40%
- 21-30%
- 11-20%
- 0-10%

People who continuously consume fewer calories than are required to maintain a healthy life.



U.N. statistics reveal extent of world hunger

BY NICOLE COIA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In his 2009 Lenten message Pope Benedict XVI said the spiritual practice of fasting also should lead to concrete action on behalf of the hungry.

"Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live," the pope said in the message released at the Vatican Feb. 3.

The Vatican invited Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program, to its press conference presenting the message.

The following are statistics on world hunger from the World Food Program and the Office of the U.N. Secretary-General:

— In 2008, the number of undernourished people in the world rose to 963 million (more than the combined populations of the United States, Canada and the European Union), up 40 million from 2007.

— The majority of undernourished people live in developing countries, with about 65 percent of the total living in India, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

— Hunger and malnutrition are the No. 1 risk to health worldwide, greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

— Hunger does not affect just the individual. Economists estimate that every child whose physical and mental development is stunted by hunger and malnutrition stands to lose 5 percent to 10 percent in lifetime earnings.

— The total food surplus of the United States alone could satisfy every empty stomach in Africa; France's leftovers could feed the hungry in Democratic Republic of Congo and Italy's could feed Ethiopia's undernourished.

— Today 25,000 people will die from hunger. A child dies every six seconds of

Today 25,000 people will die from hunger.

A child dies every six seconds of malnutrition or starvation.

malnutrition or starvation.

— A number of factors, including high energy and fertilizer costs, sent global food prices soaring to all-time highs in 2008. In March the price of rice hit a 19-year high while wheat climbed to its highest level in 28 years.

However the price of staple foods throughout the world has declined over the last few months.

— Food riots erupted in the spring of 2008 in Haiti, Mexico and Senegal. The World Bank estimated that social unrest, as a consequence of the world food crisis, could spread to 33 countries.

Although riots have eased in recent months, at a meeting in Madrid, Spain, Jan. 26, Ban Ki-moon, U.N. secretary-general, urged wealthy nations not to ignore the shocking problem of world hunger.

— There is enough food in the world today for everyone to have the nourishment necessary for a healthy and productive life.

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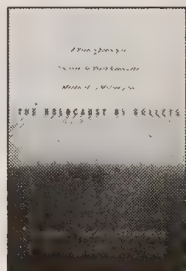
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Moving book tells troubling tale of mass shootings of Jews in Ukraine

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



"The Holocaust by Bullets" is one of the most moving, troubling and insightful books on the Holocaust, or for that matter any other subject, that I have ever read.

Father Patrick Desbois is a French priest of humble background who is an adviser to the French bishops and to the Holy See for Catholic-Jewish relations.

His interest in the dialogue with Jews and in the Holocaust was sparked by his grandfather, who had been a prisoner of war during World War II interned by the Germans in Ukraine and who, in telling the story of his own sufferings to his grandson, insisted that it was much worse for "the others."

"The others," it turned out, were the Jews, who, relatively early in the war in German-occupied Ukraine, were murdered, not by the anonymous millions in concentration camps away from the eyes of the public, but by the scores in town squares and fields in front of their horrified non-Jewish neighbors, friends who were often forced to facilitate the massacres by digging the ditches and covering over the mass graves that to this day dot the landscape of an entire country.

Until Father Desbois and his courageous team spent much of the past decade traveling around the country from village to village, interviewing the townsfolk, most of whom were children at the time of the killings, the graves were unmarked, destined it would seem for oblivion.

Now the sites are carefully plotted, their positions marked exactly by GPS, with the approximate number of the victims interred there and with eyewitness stories recorded and cross-referenced with archival materials from German and Soviet records.

The book is written simply in the first person, narrating how the author became interested in and then, in the best moral sense, obsessed by his mission.

It details the development by his small team of a methodology to interview witnesses and, by analyzing the number of bullets found in a given area, computing the approximate number of victims buried where they had fallen.

Some of the passages, in their stark simplicity, sear the soul of the reader. Visiting a neat, well-kept German cemetery in Lublin, Poland, for example, shortly after visiting a Jewish grave site in which they saw "nothing that resembled a cemetery," Father Desbois comments:

"While the mass graves of the thousands of Jews who were shot are untraceable, every German killed during the war has been reburied and identified by name. The cemeteries are on the scale of the Reich. Magnificent cemeteries for

the Germans ... absolutely nothing for the Jews.

"Thus, under the ground, everything is still in order according to the hierarchy of the Reich. We cannot give a posthumous victory to Nazism. We cannot leave the Jews buried like animals. We cannot accept this state of affairs and allow our continent to be built upon the obliterated memory of the victims of the Reich."

This is not to say that the book is a sad one. Rather, it radiates a sense of redemption.

In interviewing the witnesses to the mass shootings of Jews in their villages, Father Desbois allows them, most for the first time since they witnessed the horrors in which they took part, to speak of what happened, to have it recorded for posterity.

Many were conscripted into digging the pits into which the Jews were herded and shot. Then they were forced to cover over the pits, throwing thin layers of earth over multiple layers of the dead bodies of the conscripts' neighbors and friends.

In the interviews, the witnesses had to relive the horror, but in telling it, they were finally freed from some of its heavy burden.

One elderly woman, for example, confessed that she and two friends were forced "to walk on the bodies of the people who were shot after every volley of shots. We were three Ukrainian girls who, in our bare feet, had to pack down the bodies of the Jews and throw a fine layer of sand on top of them so that other Jews could lay down (to be shot in turn)."

The volume is graced with 16 pages of excellent photographs of the sites, the digging and, above all, the faces of the witnesses, as well as several transcripts of testimonies. One finishes this book with new understandings of familiar words such as evil, shame, hope and grace.

Fisher is retired associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and recently received the Shevet Achim Award for Outstanding Contributions to Jewish-Christian Understanding from the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 22, 2009

Feb. 22, Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25
Psalm 41:2-5, 13-14
- 2) 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

God's presence helps us leave past behind, focus on future

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The past has such an allure for us, especially as we get older. We love to tell stories of how it was "back in the day." Whenever we gather with old friends, we tell and retell the same stories as though they had happened just last week.

For some, the past is so much a part of their lives that they seem to constantly relive it, be it the glory days of high school and college, their home town or even the physical shape they once had.

For others, the history they carry with them is a burden. These people sometimes wallow in the past. The hard and painful times tend to hold on as though affixed to the soul with superglue.

We are, for sure, a product of our previous experiences. But we do not have to be defined by them.

In this weekend's first reading, God says through the prophet Isaiah: "Remember not the events of the past, the

things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!"

God is all about the here and now. Even the name God reveals to us in Exodus is "I am who am," not "I was" or "I will be" but I AM. This shows us that God is eternally present, and he is calling us to meet him where he is.

For me and a lot of people I know, one aspect of the past that continues to nag, pull and at times bring guilt is the sins I have committed. Even those I have taken to confession tend to creep back into my mind and try to drag me down.

But here again God's mercy shines through in the words of Isaiah: "I ... wipe out ... your offenses; your sins I remember no more."

God's eternal presence and unfailing forgiveness can give us the strength we need to leave the past behind. It's not that God is saying we are to deny our past or even forget it, but that we must avoid allowing the days behind us to dictate the ones before us.

If we hold too tight to yesterday we might miss what God is doing right now, and if God is doing it, it is sure to be a good thing.

Questions:

What "new thing" is God doing in your life these days? What things from the past are hard for you to let go of? In what ways do you see God as being eternally present?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" (Isaiah 43:18-19)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

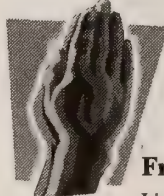
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 15-21

Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45; **Monday**, Genesis 4:1-15, 25, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday (Seven Servite Founders)**, Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday**, Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday**, Genesis 9:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday**, Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday (St. Peter Damian)**, Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 22-28

Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Monday (St. Polycarp)**, Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday**, Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Friday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

An invitation to all Catholic women! Strong Women, Strong Friendship, Strong Faith! — a weekend forum with Sr. Paula Hagen, O.S.B.



Sr. Paula Hagen, co-author of Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is a family therapist, national family ministry consultant, trainer, and retreat director from St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul, Minnesota. She will facilitate the retreat using Scripture, prayer rituals, journaling, quiet reflection, and discussion centered on Mary.

Fri., Feb. 27 – 5:30-9:30 pm and Sat., Feb. 28 – 9am-12 pm

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Spiritual guidance online

Content of popular Catholic Web site put out in book, sent to pastors

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In the 10 years since Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., began offering ministry guidance and aids on its Web site, the technology has exploded and so has the audience of the Catholic Web site, which received more than 21 million hits in the past year.

The site has become so popular that a Catholic publishing house in Chicago has published some of the content in book form and sent a complimentary copy to every Catholic parish in the United States.

"I know that it may sound a little odd that a book would come out of stuff from a Web site, and not the other way around," said Jesuit Father Andy Alexander, one of the founders of the Web site that inspired the book.

"But we're hoping to expand our audience, and this book will help, especially if parishes begin using it," he said.

The book, "Praying Lent: Renewing Our Lives on the Lenten Journey," is a guide for Catholics about how to celebrate an often misunderstood season.

Father Alexander and Maureen Waldron — staff members of the Jesuit-run university's Collaborative Ministry Office — set up the Creighton University Web site in 1998 to provide daily reflections for the faculty and staff to help them understand the school's mission.

During Lent that year the daily reflections focused on the 40 days leading up to Easter and provided information about what that period means to Catholics and what the church expects from them.

"At the end of Lent of 1998, when we first went online with daily reflections, a woman wrote to us and said she was visiting Hong Kong and heard about our site from a priest from Baltimore and told us how much our postings meant to her during her time overseas," Waldron said.

"That's when it occurred to us, 'We're not just a campus ministry. We're reaching out globally,'" she said.

As they added faculty and staff to their roster of daily reflection writers, they also started hearing from more people from all corners of the planet.

"We started to realize two things," Father Alexander said. "People were very hungry for spiritual guidance, and the World Wide Web is a very powerful tool."

With little technical savvy or computer training 10 years ago, Father Alexander, now 60, and Waldron, now 55, learned the ins and outs of Web site design and maneuvering using the trial-and-error method.

Over the years they have added online translations of spiritual exercises from St. Ignatius, established interactive retreats, posted Lenten recipes, installed audio downloads, provided Advent

instructions for Catholics, given advice for dealing with grief and created a weekly guide for daily prayer, Father Alexander said.

"People kept saying they were too busy to pray," he said. "So this reviews all of the readings of the week and instructs people how to practice their faith. For lack of a better phrase, it's religion for the busy person."

However, the online ministry isn't a substitute for Mass, Father Alexander said.

"It's not replacing church," he said. "This is spirituality online. It helps people strengthen their relationship with God when they are not in church."

Since they were hearing from people from Saudi Arabia to Siberia, Father Alexander and Waldron translated some of the retreats into Spanish, Japanese and Russian.

"Loyola Press started watching our numbers, and even though they said they had never published anything that had already been available for free, the numbers were staggering," Father Alexander said.

"They asked us if they could put our online retreats in books, so that people can have them in hand," he said.

The book will be handy for people who are traveling without Internet access, or for those who just haven't embraced the new technology, said Michelle Halm, a Loyola Press spokeswoman.

"We saw how the retreat on Lent inspired so many people to sign onto their Web site," Halm said. "We thought it would be great to put that information into a book to reach even a broader audience."

"It's very practical and hands-on. It even has recipes and (information on) how to make the most of Lent. We wanted to get it into more hands," she said.

Since Loyola Press would also like to see pastors all over the United States use this book as an instructional guide for members of their congregation, the company has sent every parish in the country a complimentary copy along with inexpensive order deals, she said.

"This would be ideal for a prayer group, or a special Lenten instruction group," Halm said.

Msr. Damien Nalepa, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Church in Baltimore, received his copy during Advent and decided to read it sometime in January. However, the idea of a book to help guide members of his congregation through the practical aspects of Lent intrigued him.

"I like the idea," he said. "This is the kind of tool that I think would be valuable for our parishioners. I am always looking for tools to help Catholics really understand Lent."

A second book containing information from Creighton University's online ministry site, which can be found at www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html, is planned for the near future, most likely as a guide for Advent, Halm said.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY WHITE STONE GALLERY

Spanish-born contemporary artist Maria Tarruella poses in front of her painting, "John 8:12" in Philadelphia Feb. 4. Her exhibition, titled "Hope," contains 13 layered-collage pieces depicting images of God's presence in our daily lives.

Artist hopes her art opens people's hearts to God's love

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Contemporary artist Maria Tarruella hopes her first U.S. exhibit can open the hearts of people around her to the love of God.

"He knows who he has to communicate to. I hope I'm humble enough and open enough to hear his voice and listen to where he wants to take me," she stated.

"In my work, I ask the Lord to come bless me and use me. The art comes from a conversation between us," Tarruella said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

Her exhibition, titled "Hope," contains 13 layered collage pieces depicting images of God's presence in our daily lives. The exhibition will debut Feb. 27 at White Stone Gallery in Philadelphia.

St. Teresa of Avila, a 16th-century mystic, served as an inspiration for Tarruella's art. She said she admired the saint's ability to combine mysticism and a businesslike attitude in her life.

"We always have our daily fights and it's about seeing how we can give our day-to-day lives to the Lord and let him come into our minute, little paths in life," said Tarruella.

Living in the United States for a little more than a year, Tarruella said she noticed a different attitude toward religion in the States.

"People in Europe are much more reserved about their faith. Speaking about religion is quite personal and private. People are taken aback if you speak openly about God," she noted.

Tarruella admires the fact that Americans speak much more candidly about faith in God.

Born in the predominantly Catholic country of Spain, Tarruella rarely practiced her faith growing up.

She experienced a renewal of her faith during a 1989 encounter with the late Pope John Paul II in Santiago, Chile. Hearing the pope's words, Tarruella felt an intense heat in her heart and recognized the sensation as a sign to

communicate God's message to others.

For the "Hope" exhibit, Tarruella created layered pieces, using wax, acrylic paint, metallic paint, tissue paper, iron powder and ashes on raw linen canvas. Each material is symbolic of Tarruella's faith.

"Our daily life is filled with information, junk mail, bills, papers and notes. I would get a pile of coupons from the cashier at the grocery store and just crumple them up and throw them away. Then I thought that cashier had cared enough and taken time to give those coupons to me. I should not be throwing them away," said Tarruella.

So, instead, she used the newspaper clippings, receipts and coupons in her art. Tarruella placed the papers on a canvas, praying for everyone that made it possible for those things to reach her hands, she said.

Tarruella created her own paint to cover the collage. She "applied the Holy Spirit" to her work, she said, by gently placing tissue paper over the paint, which gave a "sense of peace" to the art.

Applied over the tissue paper, wax acts as a symbol of God's action in our lives, she said. "Like God's love, the wax is burning, but it is also tender."

"Hope" will be installed in gallery rooms with lights that can be turned on or off when visitors are viewing the art. Tarruella uses a bright fluorescent paint hidden beneath several layers.

When the lights are off, the concealed paint becomes visible, giving further meaning and dimension to the work.

"Even in the darkness, there is always light. God will guide you through the dark to where Jesus is," Tarruella said.

People around the world have responded positively to her art, she said, regardless of their religion or background.

"One time a lady saw my painting from the street and came into the gallery. She stood in front of the painting and looked at it. She suddenly began to cry because she was so moved by the painting. She had heard a voice calling her to open her heart," said Tarruella.

Vatican orders study of women religious in U.S.

STUDY, from page 1

The announcement was made Jan. 30 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington by Sister Eva-Maria Ackerman, a member of the American province of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George.

She will assist Mother Mary Clare Millea, a Connecticut native who is superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an international religious institute that has its headquarters in Rome.

Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, appointed Mother Clare as the apostolic visitor.

The cardinal sent letters detailing the task to both the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the two major organizations representing heads of women's religious orders in the United States.

It is too early to know how many volunteers will be enlisted to visit nearly 400 Catholic institutes for women religious in the United States, how much it will cost or who will pay for the study, Sister Ackerman said during the press conference at the national shrine.

"We hope to discover and share the vibrancy and purpose that continue to accomplish so much, as well as to understand the obstacles and challenges that inhibit these individuals and institutions, thus limiting their growth

and/or redirecting their resources and outreach," she said.

The study — which is expected to be completed by 2011 — is in no way connected to the apostolic visitation of more than 200 U.S. seminaries and formation houses in 2005 and 2006, which was ordered in response to the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church, Sister Ackerman said.

It was not known why the Vatican chose to do this study now, why the United States was singled out and what prompted the Vatican congregation to order it, she said. "I don't even want to speculate," she added.

Once the study is concluded, a "comprehensive and confidential" report will be given to Cardinal Rode, but its findings are not expected to be made public, Sister Ackerman said.

"First, Mother Clare will solicit voluntary input from the superiors general through inviting them to make personal visits with her in Rome or in the United States," she said.

"During the second stage, the major superiors in the United States will be asked for information such as statistics, activities and community practices. Selected on-site visits will be made during the third stage," Sister Ackerman said.

Catholic women religious have been involved in education, health care and a variety of pastoral and social services in the United States since before the nation was founded in 1776, said Mother Clare in a prepared statement released at the press conference.

"I am truly humbled and a bit overwhelmed," she said of her assignment.

"While I have visited each of the communities and missions in my own



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI

Nuns gather to pray in the chapel at the Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira, N.Y., in this July 14, 2004, file photo. An announcement was made in Washington Jan. 30 that the Vatican has initiated an apostolic visitation of institutes of women religious to find out why their numbers have decreased during the past 40 years.

congregation, the thought of gathering facts and findings about nearly 400 institutes across the United States can be daunting in scope," she said.

"I know that the object of this visitation is to encourage and strengthen apostolic communities of women religious, for the simple reason that these communities are integral to the entire life of the Catholic Church, in the United States and beyond," Mother Clare said.

Sister Ackerman acknowledged that the population of women religious has

significantly dropped during the past several decades, and that fewer nuns have chosen to teach school in the past 30 years in favor of doing social outreach.

"Recruitment is of great concern for every (religious) community," she said.

"We live in a very different society," she added, than that experienced by many of the U.S. saints who were nuns — Sts. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frances Xavier Cabrini, Katharine Drexel, Rose Philippine Duchesne and Mother Theodore Guerin.

Religious in the Diocese of Charlotte

Congregations of sisters:

Congregation of Notre Dame
Congregation of Our Lady Help of the Clergy
Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
Eremitic of St. Augustine
Maryknoll Sisters
Missionaries of Charity
Missionary Servants of the Blessed Trinity
Poor Servants of the Mother of God
School Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Providence
Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Ministries:

Congregational leadership
Medical clinic director
Outpatient clinic director
Business manager
Counseling
Nursing
Retreat ministry
Peace and justice advocacy
Seminary professor
Hospital chaplain

Bereavement ministry

Residence for mentally and physically impaired
Evangelization/faith formation/vocations
Prison ministry
Diocesan tribunal
Hispanic ministry
Elementary education
Theology professor
Director of diocesan media center
Parish pastoral associates
Elder care
Day care services
Residence for homeless women and children
Nursing home administrator and patient visitors
Residence for terminally-ill AIDS patients
Spiritual renewal programs director

Congregations of brothers:

Augustinians
Jesuits
Benedictines
Capuchin Franciscans
Missionaries of the Poor

Ministries:

Retreat house director
College coach
Professors
Hispanic ministry coordinator
Vocations work
Manual labor

PRINCIPAL - LOWER SCHOOL WALSINGHAM ACADEMY in WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Position Description: Together with the President and Upper School Principal, the Lower School Principal completes the Academy's administrative team. The Principal is responsible to ensure mission integration, provide instructional leadership, ensure overall program and curriculum development, and administer daily operations.

Requirements: The ideal candidate for this position is a practicing Catholic holding a master's degree in administration. A combined minimum of 8 years teaching and administrative experience at the elementary level is required. The candidate should hold, or be eligible to obtain, Virginia State Elementary Certification.

Application Process: Qualified applicants should complete an application which is available at www.walsingham.org and send a resume to the President at mjo@walsingham.org, or President, Walsingham Academy, 1100 Jamestown Road/P. O. Box 8702, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8702.

Application must be received no later than **March 2, 2009**.

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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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Students in service



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from St. Mark School in Huntersville deliver cookies, handmade cards and a banner to the Huntersville Oaks nursing home Jan. 26. The outreach was for "Community Service Day," part of Catholic Schools Week. The students visited with residents individually to deliver the cards. Similar donations were made to the Huntersville police and fire departments and the Huntersville branch of the public library.

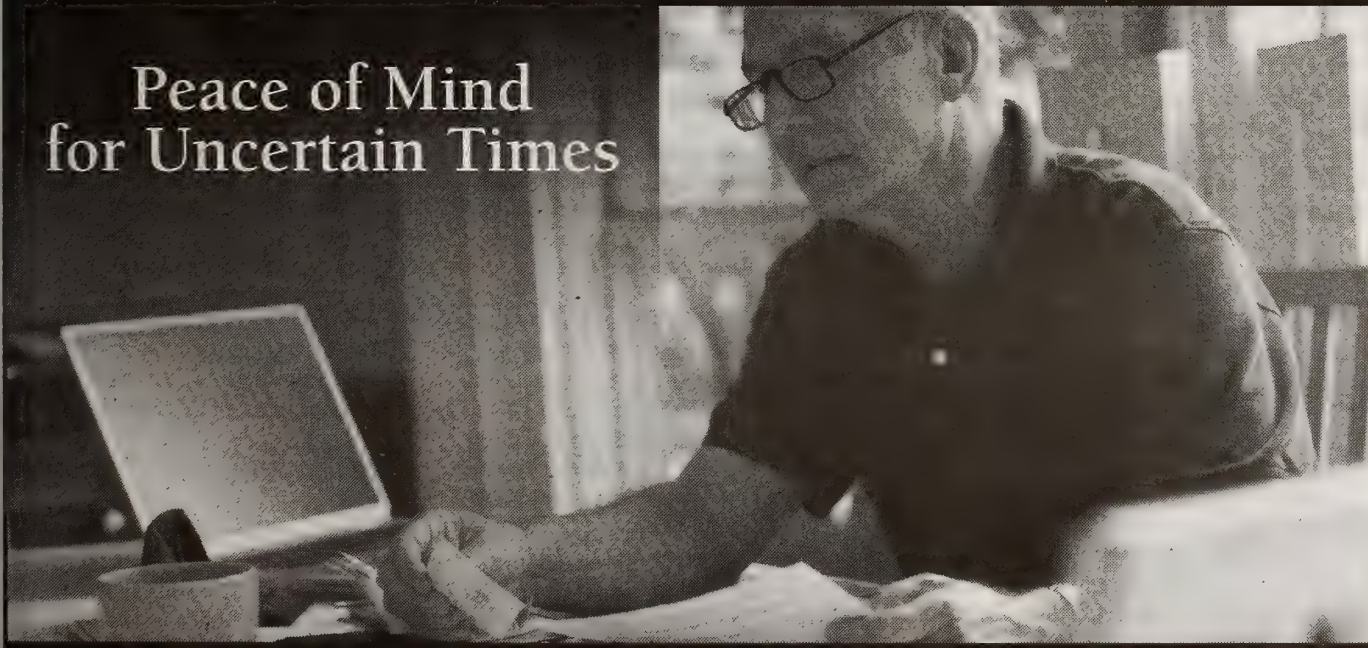
Surveying the school



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis visits with kindergarten students at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury Jan. 30 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Bishop Jugis visited all the classrooms and celebrated Mass for the students in Sacred Heart Church. Concelebrating Mass were Father John Putnam, pastor, and Father Noe Torres, parochial vicar. Deacon James Mazur assisted.

Peace of Mind for Uncertain Times



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COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (right) and Father John Putnam (left), pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, tour the site of the new church and school Jan. 30.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald?

Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



800-1-400-1-1008

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Spiritual, emotional and cultural

Faith is an integral part of holding onto our historical identity

Some time ago I found myself among about a dozen people, most of them my neighbors in New Mexico, at an organizational meeting of a Unitarian fellowship.

I went because the organizers are good friends and they insisted I join them. We sat in a circle in the assembly room of another church and each person in turn spoke about his past religious affiliations.

To my surprise, every person had left the church in which he or she had been born.

As I listened to them speak about their search for something new, I looked out a large window across the valley. There, on a gently sloping hillside, stood a chapel with adobe walls and a small bell tower jutting out of the rusty tin roof.

Named in honor of St. Isidore, patron of farmers, that chapel is where I often worshipped with my family when I was a child.

As I sat only half listening to the others, I remembered the lusty hymns, the hard wooden pews and the many processions, especially on Good Friday when the Penitentes, a penitential society of laymen, re-enacted the Crucifixion.

When my turn came to speak, I invited the others to look out across the valley to the chapel. I told them my grandfather and many other relatives, perhaps even my great-grandfather, are buried in the humble cemetery adjacent to the chapel.

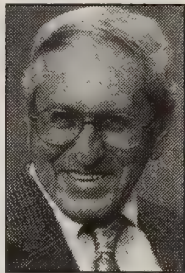
I told them my experience in the Catholic Church has not always been good. Sometimes bishops, priests and fellow laypersons have disappointed me, as indeed I am sure I have sometimes failed to measure up in their standards.

But, as I emphasized to the group, we have a long history there. And I added: "I am not going to break with that history. The faith is part of who we are."

It's the same response I give to the Jehovah's Witnesses who come regularly to my door in New York, seeking to entice me to join their church. They find me by asking my neighbors, "Is there

Seeking Life

MOISES SANDOVAL
CNS COLUMNIST



anyone who speaks Spanish here?"

I thought again about all this recently when I read about a talk President Barack Obama gave to American Jews in June 2008.

He said: "In many ways, I didn't know where I came from. So I was drawn to the belief that you could sustain a spiritual, emotional and cultural identity. And I understand the Zionist idea — that there is always a homeland at the center of our identity."

The homeland at the center of Hispanic identity, of course, is more than a place; it is a faith, a language, a tapestry of values embedded in a culture that places a high value on family and community and a history that stretches across the centuries all the way back to Spain.

There our ancestors battled the Moors for 700 years to preserve their faith and way of life.

For most if not all of us, necessity or opportunity has taken us away from the place where we were born. This is as true of immigrants as it is for my own people in New Mexico and other areas of the Southwest.

But wherever we have gone we have carried the portable aspects of our homeland with us. And the way to sustain the spiritual, emotional and cultural identity to which Obama alludes is not by giving all that up.

It is by knowing who we are, where we come from and what gifts we bring that we can best contribute to the multicultural society in which we now find ourselves.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Age-old questions

Love is ageless and expressed in many relationships — with others and with God

My local newspaper carried a picture of newlyweds, 95 years young, who were celebrating their marriage with a large, extended and multigenerational family. The bride wore white. The groom wore a dapper suit. Both wore big smiles.

Looking at that picture, some might wonder, "At their age?!"

I, however, marvel at their eagerness to unite themselves to each other in marriage in their twilight years, a commitment that many young people seem to shy away from today.

And I rejoice that their families were present to celebrate with them, giving their blessing and support as the couple embarks on a new chapter of life. Truly love knows no age or time limit.

This story reminded me of a study published in February 2007 that found that the risk for Alzheimer's-like dementia more than doubled in lonely people.

Lonely people were also more likely to be less economically and educationally accomplished, and tended to have more health problems than those who reported having strong social ties.

Loneliness, it seems, can take a horrible toll on us as we age. And yet, in today's busy world, many of us find less and less time to nurture strong relationships.

Time can pass without our calling a friend, visiting a shut-in relative or reaching out to a neighbor. We might take long-term relationships for granted, giving into pressure to spend time on newer, perhaps more exciting ones.

We might shun older people because we think we have nothing in common with them. We might ignore younger children for the same reason.

We might lose sight of the fact that, the Lord willing, we too will reach an older age.

True love, one that reflects our faith and value in the worth of other people, does not develop overnight. It cannot be forged in a few online chat sessions or a couple of dates.

Parent-child, husband-wife bonds cannot be improved upon by scheduling in brief "quality time" and ignoring long-term building.

And yet, more and more, that is what many aspects of society, with an emphasis on anti-aging, quick fixes and instant gratification, would lead us to believe. But we know otherwise, and we have examples from Scripture to guide us.

The greatest example of a long-term, loving relationship is the one we enjoy with our Creator. In Jeremiah 1:5, God says: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."

Yes, God knew us then and he knows us now — and he loves us completely!

Love through sacrifice shines in Christ's example of selfless giving, by his death on the cross and also through his whole life of service to those young, old, strong and infirm.

Living Well

MAUREEN PRATT
CNS COLUMNIST



If we look at love through the eyes of faith and expand our understanding of love beyond what television, radio and music outlets describe, we discover that love is ageless and can be expressed in many different relationships.

No one is too young or too old for God's all-encompassing love.

I think about those "kids," that couple who traveled 95 years and lived full lives before finding and marrying each other. What an example of the timeless expression of love!

Of course, not every loving relationship will end in marriage. But with examples like this one to inspire us, we too can look beyond society's often one-sided perception of love and help bring Christ's compassion and love to the world.

For with Christ, no one is ever alone.



Too Sweet

2.2 million
couples marry each year in the U.S.

196,420
couples married in U.S. Catholic churches last year — about 9% of all marriages.

California, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas
have the most number of Catholic marriages

6%
of currently married women have been married for at least 50 years.

57% women
60% men
who are 18 or older and married in the U.S.

Source: U.S. Census and The Official Catholic Directory ©2009 CNS

Oversimplification leads to misunderstanding

Catholic media crucial for contextual reporting

The movie synopses printed in television program grids are models of conciseness. After giving the title, the year and the stars of the movie, the writer has minimal wordage left to describe the plot.

Some actual examples from recent TV logs:

"Ben Hur": "Friends become bitter enemies during the time of Christ."

"Julius Caesar": "Political intrigues lead to Caesar's downfall in old Rome."

"Pearl Harbor": "Friends join a war effort after the Japanese attack Hawaii."

"E.T.": "A California boy befriends a homesick alien."

History written in that style might find: "George Washington": "Affluent Virginia planter leads revolutionary army, named president, becomes father of his country."

Such condensed information is not inaccurate; it is just an oversimplification that provokes misunderstanding.

Another problem is instantaneous news. If you are too many beers into an evening and dance with a lampshade on your head while on vacation in Pago Pago, be prepared to see a photo of that when you come home.

Because of context and instantaneous news, the Vatican finds itself in a fix.

Not only the Vatican. So are Catholics who are called upon to be apologists at office coffee breaks, confronting such questions as "What's wrong with the

church?" or "What is the pope up to?"

Not too long ago, the appointment of an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Linz, Austria, would have been little known outside the borders of that country.

And the contents of the parish newsletter in the Austrian town of Windischgarsten would have been of little concern other than among parishioners.

But it contained questionable opinions of the pastor, leading to a three-paragraph story with this headline: "Pope Promotes New Orleans Critic."

In 2005, Father Gerhard Wagner was quoted in the parish newsletter as saying he was convinced that the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina that year was "divine retribution" upon New Orleans for its permissive sexual attitudes and tolerance of homosexuality.

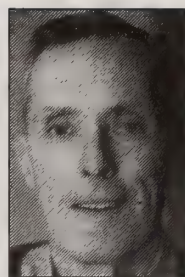
The brevity in reporting gives good reason for a reader to have the impression that being named a bishop was reward for his unorthodox statements.

In another case, the Society of St. Pius X situation extends back through two papacies and decades with canon lawyers wrestling with the question.

Bishop Richard Williamson, one of four bishops whose illicit ordination in 1988 by French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre prompted their automatic excommunication, provoked protests worldwide with his assertions that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



Denying the Holocaust, like denying your own right hand, is clearly stupid but not a cause for excommunication.

Likewise, making poor remarks years ago is no reason for a perpetual ban on a person.

A Vatican statement said Pope Benedict XVI did not know about Bishop Williamson's controversial statements when he lifted the excommunication of him and three other traditionalist bishops.

These two events show the result of the quest for brevity and instant communication at the expense of context.

When, weeks later, the Vatican said the pope was unaware of Bishop Williamson's remarks, brevity led to an incomplete understanding of infallibility.

Thus another coffee-break topic.

"How could it be he does not know? He is infallible."

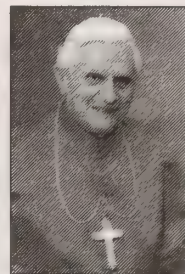
Because of the shorthand of brevity of context, full understanding needs more than "Pope Reinstates Denier of Holocaust" or "Pope Promotes New Orleans Critic."

This is Catholic Press Month. There is no better evidence to illustrate the value of the Catholic media — print, video and Internet — than this need for contextual reporting.

Controlling passions harnesses energy for doing good, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When people control their passions and desires, they can direct their energy toward total love of God and serving others, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Passions are not bad in themselves" but can lead to bad behavior if they are not controlled, the pope said Feb. 11 during his weekly general audience.

The pope's talk focused on St. John Climacus, the sixth-century author of "Scala Paradisi" ("Ladder of Paradise"), a step-by-step explanation of how to grow and mature in the spiritual life.

The audience talk marked a return to the pope's audience series on the great Christian writers of early Christianity.

Pope Benedict said St. John Climacus' work divides the Christian spiritual journey into three phases: cultivating "spiritual infancy," or the attitude of a child totally dependent on God; "spiritual combat" against human passions through the cultivation of spiritual virtues; and obtaining "Christian perfection" through faith, hope and love.

For St. John Climacus, he said, spiritual combat is not a negative exercise in the sense of ridding one's life of desires, but rather takes the positive approach of cultivating virtues so that passion becomes a source of energy and of true longing for union with God.

"According to St. John, passions are not bad in themselves. They only become so because of the negative way people with their freedom use them. If they are purified, passions set people energetically on the path toward God," the pope said.

The pope said in reading the work of St. John, "For me it is particularly important that the highest point of the ladder, the top rungs, are at the same time the basic, initial, most simple virtues: faith, hope and love. They aren't virtues that are accessible only to moral heroes. They are virtues that are gifts of God and in which our life grows."

Faith obviously comes first because it is through faith that people renounce their arrogance and self-centeredness, recognizing that God is the creator and ruler of all, he said.

"St. John Climacus rightly says that only hope makes us able to love. Hope helps us transcend the things of daily life and not expect success from one day to the next," he said.

With hope "we can support the delusions of each day, we can be good to others without reward," the pope said, and with hope we take small steps forward each day "and in that way we learn love. Let us climb this ladder of faith, hope and love, and in that way we will arrive at true life."

Going green with NFP

Natural family planning respects nature of marital act, encouraged for Catholics

In his 2008 World Day of Peace message, Pope Benedict XVI called for a "strengthening" of the "covenant between human beings and the environment" and has since been widely dubbed the "green pope."

I invite Catholic couples to follow the pope's message and go green this year by taking a natural family planning class.

Natural family planning (NFP) is "about going green," according to Christopher Thompson, associate professor in Catholic studies and theology at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

"People want their food, they want their vegetables, they want their meat to be raised with some sort of respect for the nature of the thing," he said.

Thompson said he he questions why some couples lower their standards when it comes to their marriages.

"Why introduce into your body chemicals you wouldn't put in your garden? Why use plastics or petroleum

products in the bedroom if you won't use them anywhere else?" he asked.

Our society is beginning to favor the wisdom of nature. We buy organic products and insist on breastfeeding as the best form of nutrition for our infants.

As such, why not make the effort to learn NFP?

Natural family planning is an umbrella term for the various methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancies.

These methods are based on observation of naturally occurring signs of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle.

No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used. Couples abstain from intercourse during times identified as fertile if pregnancy is to be avoided.

And when used correctly, research shows that NFP methods are 97-99 percent effective.

While children are the greatest gift in a marriage, couples may at times need to postpone pregnancy

Guest Column

BATRICE
ADCOCK
GUEST COLUMNIST



for good reasons. NFP does not offer carbon offsets, but it does help couples to responsibly plan their families in a dignified way that respects the nature of the marital act

For more information on natural family planning in the Diocese of Charlotte, call (704) 370-3230.

Adcock is NFP program director for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Catholic Social Services is funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.



CNS PHOTO BY TREVOR PINDER, REUTERS

Country Fire Authority member Andrew Watson carries his 5-year-old daughter Elana in the fire-ravaged town of Kinglake, about 29 miles northeast of Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 9. Weary firefighters and rescuers pulled the remains of dozens of people from charred buildings Feb. 9 as the death toll rose to more than 180 from wildfires in southeastern Australia's Victoria state.

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After the fire's fury

Australian archbishop pledges church's support to wildfire victims

CANBERRA, Australia (CNS) — The head of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference said the Catholic Church would lend both spiritual and practical support to families victimized by a series of wildfires that left more than 180 dead in Victoria state.

"I know that Catholic parishes across Australia have been praying for the people who died in the bush fires, as well as for those experiencing the grief of losing loved ones, family homes and cherished pets and belongings," said Archbishop Philip Wilson of Adelaide, conference president, in a Feb. 9 statement.

"Catholic relief agencies, such as St. Vincent de Paul and Centacare, are already at work providing much-needed assistance to people on the ground in these communities. This support will continue over the coming months and years, as we walk with these families and communities in their time of need," Archbishop Wilson said in a Feb. 9 statement.

"My prayers and thoughts are with all who are suffering so grievously," Archbishop Wilson said.

In a separate statement, Good Samaritan Sister Clare Condon, president of Catholic Religious Australia, the nation's organization for men and women religious, said, "With all Australians, we will work to provide the practical support and help that is needed."

At the Vatican, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of state, sent a telegram to Quentin Bryce, governor general of Australia, assuring her of Pope Benedict XVI's prayers for those affected by the fires as well as for those providing aid.

Denis Fitzgerald, executive director of Catholic Social Services Victoria, said in a statement that the emergency relief arm of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was "providing immediate assistance and assessing needs for recovery" on a parish-by-parish basis.

Centacare agencies in four Australian

dioceses were providing assistance as well. Centacare is the national federation of Catholic social service agencies.

"Their professional expertise in counseling is very important and will become more so over the coming weeks and months, as the recovery phase takes off," Fitzgerald said.

Archbishop Wilson urged people to give generously to emergency appeals being established to assist those affected by the fires. Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, established one appeal; the St. Vincent de Paul Society set up another.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced immediate emergency aid of \$10 million (US\$6.8 million), and government officials said the army would be deployed to help fight the fires and clean up the debris.

The Country Fire Authority in Victoria said some 850 square miles were burned. Some towns were fully lost to the flames. Australian authorities said they expected the death toll to top 200.

The Associated Press reported blazes had been burning for weeks across several states in southern Australia. A long-running drought — the worst in a century — had left forests extra dry, and fire conditions Feb. 7 in Victoria were said to be the worst ever in Australia.

Wildfires are common during the Australian summer. Government research shows about half of the roughly 60,000 fires each year are deliberately lit or suspicious. Lightning and people using machinery near dry brush are other causes. Police were investigating whether any of the Victoria fires had suspicious origins.

Australia's previous worst fires were in 1983, when blazes killed 75 people and razed more than 3,000 homes in the states of Victoria and South Australia during the "Ash Wednesday fires." Seventy-one died and 650 buildings were destroyed in 1939's "Black Friday fires."



CNS PHOTO BY RICK RYCROFT, REUTERS

The remains of St. Andrew's Church are seen after it was destroyed by fire in Kinglake, northeast of Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 9. Weary firefighters and rescuers pulled the remains of dozens of people from charred buildings Feb. 9 as the death toll rose to more than 180 from wildfires in southeastern Australia's Victoria state.

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FRONT-LINE FATHER



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BENEDICT CHURCH VIA WESTERN NEW YORK CATHOLIC

Father Joseph Porpiglia (left), a chaplain with the U.S. Navy, is pictured with a soldier in an undated photo in Afghanistan. Father Porpiglia, who has been stationed in Afghanistan since September 2008, had previously served as pastor of St. Benedict Church in Amherst, N.Y.

Priest-reservist serves troops as chaplain in Afghanistan

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Just a few months ago, Father Joseph Porpiglia was running a parish in the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., but he currently is in Afghanistan serving as a Navy chaplain.

The priest, who holds the rank of lieutenant commander, finds himself traveling via helicopter across a rugged countryside that was once ruled — and is still contested — by the Taliban regime.

"I don't like focusing on me," Father Porpiglia stated in a recent e-mail to a reporter based in Columbus. "I like to focus on what our men and women are doing and the great job they are doing."

He had expected to be returning home in March but his tour has been extended until after Easter.

It is the priest's second tour of duty in the region. In 2003, he served in Iraq with Surgical Company A of the 4th Medical Battalion. In Afghanistan, he celebrates Mass and ministers to soldiers at a number of forward operating bases in southern and eastern areas of the country.

Some of these bases are small outposts with no running water or a kitchen, while others are huge complexes, complete with gyms and a Pizza Hut. Some of them, he stated, take days to get to.

Father Porpiglia, pastor of St. Benedict Church in Amherst, N.Y., has been a reservist with the U.S. Coast Guard for 17 years. He was called up for active duty last summer when the U.S. military designated him an "individual augmentee," someone assigned to a unit for the purpose of filling in for, or augmenting, members of that unit.

Individual augmentees are assigned individually rather than as part of a brigade, battalion or company and often are used to fill a shortage or because they have special knowledge or skills. As

in Father Porpiglia's case, they can be assigned to a branch of the military other than the one they serve regularly.

Father Porpiglia has embraced his duties. He said he cherishes the opportunity to be an avenue of support for young service members.

"My time over here has been good," he wrote in his e-mail. "There are many challenges along the way, but growing experiences as well. ... Did I tell you the flak jacket with (body armor) plates weighs 70 pounds?"

Father Porpiglia is one of about 300 Catholic priests who are currently military chaplains.

A priest must get the permission of his bishop to serve in the military. As chaplains in the armed forces, priests are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, based in Washington and headed by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio.

The archdiocese is in charge of the spiritual, pastoral and sacramental care of the 375,000 Catholic active-duty U.S. military personnel and their 800,000 family members; 200,000 Catholics in the Reserves and National Guard; 30,000 Catholic patients in 172 Veterans Affairs hospitals; and 66,000 Catholics in government service overseas in 134 countries.

According to the archdiocese, there are 12 Catholic chaplains currently in Iraq and one or two in Afghanistan.

More than 25 percent of people in the military are Catholic, yet only 7 percent of the chaplains are Catholic priests.

A spokesman for the Diocese of Buffalo said officials had no misgivings in letting Father Porpiglia fulfill his military duty. He also said they did not have any problems temporarily filling the priest's post at St. Benedict Church.

Catholic leaders express worries over Chavez victory

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's victory in a Feb. 15 referendum that eliminated term limits worries some Catholic leaders, who see it as a blow to the nation's democracy.

Chavez already has been president for a decade, and by the next presidential election in 2012 he may have accumulated so much power that he will be very hard to unseat, said Auxiliary Bishop Jesus Gonzalez de Zarate Salas of Caracas, Venezuela. "He who is in power has the opportunity to wield a great influence over the electorate," Bishop Gonzalez said.

Before the referendum campaign, the government used government ministries and state-owned industries to push for the constitutional amendment, which passed with 54 percent of the vote.

"The government abused the resources at its disposition," said Jesuit Father Arturo Peraza, who works in a Caracas prison ministry.

Nevertheless, both Bishop Gonzalez

and Father Peraza acknowledged the president's support and work with the government to move the country forward.

The Catholic Church, which has warned about an undue concentration of power in Chavez's hands as well as violations of human rights, soaring crime rates and social problems, had opposed the constitutional change. Immediately after the voting results were announced, Chavez declared he would run again in 2012.

Chavez, who says he is leading Venezuela in a socialist revolution, is an open admirer and ally of communist Cuba, where some religious rights are restricted.

Bishop Gonzalez said he does not expect to see such restrictions in Venezuela, but noted that education reform legislation could remove autonomy from Catholic schools, and free speech has been compromised by the government's practice of attacking those who disagree with administration policies. Chavez has accused them of behaving more like politicians than religious leaders.

Diocesan planner

To RSVP, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — A five-day Lenten retreat will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., Feb. 28-March 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Father Michael Sullivan of the Augustinian Preaching Apostolate will conduct the retreat. The topics of the retreat will be "To Be Born Again," "The Healing Love of Jesus," "The Call to be Church" and "Our Response to the Call." For more information, call Barbara Wilde (828) 697-9058 or e-mail johnwilde@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in February from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. A special Mass for Theology on Tap will be held March 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., is offering a weeklong guided Ignatian Lenten Retreat. The opening session will be Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Biss Hall (beneath the church) and the closing session will be March 7 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at the conclusion of the retreat. Registration is required for individuals interested in the guided retreat. If you are unable to make the guided retreat, you are invited to attend the opening and/or closing session[s]. The retreat and parking in the Green parking garage are free. To register or for more information, call (704) 332-2901 or visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes are held for 30 minutes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Banquet Center, 9009 Bryant Farms Rd. Classes are free, but registration is required. Applications are currently being accepted for the spring session. For more information or to receive an application, call (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room March 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex the weekends of Feb. 21-22 and Feb. 28-March 1. Walk-ins will be taken as time permits. Donors must bring a picture ID. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *respect life Mass* will be celebrated every fourth Saturday at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., beginning Feb. 28 at 9 a.m. Following Mass there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to go and

THE CATHOLIC NEWS-HERALD

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FEBRUARY 20, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 16

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Date set for final approval of Blessed Damien's canonization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican announced that final approval would be given Feb. 21 for the canonization of Blessed Damien de Veuster, a Belgian-born missionary priest who served patients with Hansen's disease on the Hawaiian island of Molokai more than a century ago.

Pope Benedict XVI authorized the publication of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Damien last July, clearing the way for his canonization.

The Vatican said Feb. 16 that an "ordinary public consistory"—a meeting of the pope with cardinals resident in Rome and invited bishops and other dignitaries—would be held Feb. 21 to finalize the approval of 10 canonizations, including Blessed Damien's.

The dates for the canonization ceremonies are expected to be announced shortly after the consistory.

Blessed Damien was a 19th-century missionary, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Born in 1840, he spent the last 16 years of his life caring for patients with Hansen's disease, or leprosy, on Molokai.

Blessed Damien died in 1889 and was beatified in 1995.

The miracle attributed to Blessed Damien involves the 1999 healing of Audrey Horner Toguchi, a Hawaiian who had been diagnosed with cancer. She had a tumor and other tissue removed and underwent radiation; when new tumors were found on her lungs, she decided to pray to Blessed Damien instead of undergoing the chemotherapy her doctors recommended.

The lung tumors gradually shrunk and disappeared altogether.

In his message for World Leprosy Day 2009, Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan called Blessed Damien "a lighthouse of faith and love."

Economic interests drive wider acceptance of eugenics, says archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Big economic interests and subtle changes in terminology are helping spread a wider acceptance of eugenics, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

"The term 'eugenics' seems something of the past and just mentioning the word elicits horror," he said during a Vatican press conference Feb. 17.

But as often happens, "subtle linguistic formalism together with good advertising that is supported by big economic interests causes one to lose sight of the real dangers" underlying the many advancements in genetics, he said.

A lack of clarity also can prevent people from being able "to recognize actual objective evil and formulate a corresponding ethical judgment," he added.

The archbishop was presenting details of a Feb. 20-21 international congress sponsored by the academy for life that will look at "The New Frontiers of Genetics and the Risk of Eugenics."

The eugenics movement, which focuses on improving the human species by controlling hereditary factors in

mating, was associated with Nazi attempts to purify the German race.

Genetic research and technology should continue and be supported in order to help heal or ease the suffering of individuals, Archbishop Fisichella said.

But, he said, scientific progress must be accompanied by greater ethical awareness that respects the full dignity of every human person.

The introduction to the congress program said excesses in the field of genetics can "lead to so-called eugenics which, in its various forms, seeks to obtain the perfect human being," which includes unethical means that violate respect of all forms and conditions of human life.

A real risk exists that genetics may drift away from being used solely for the good of humanity, Archbishop Fisichella said, and the abuse of genetic information is unfortunately part of "a mentality that is starting to slowly, yet inexorably, spread."

Ethical guidelines and judgments are needed to make sure the quest to help people live a so-called normal life does not result in eugenic acts, he said.

pray a rosary at a local abortion clinic. The morning will conclude with Benediction. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month 7-9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Note that the talk scheduled for March 9 has been moved to March 2. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — Solemn Vespers of Lent will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the church and completes the Divine Service for that day. The Evening Vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 1, Father Roger Arnsperger will give the reflection on the first word, "Father, forgive them they know not what they do." For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

MINT HILL — A Lenten preparation program for adults will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Saturday afternoons during Lent from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The first session will be Feb. 28. Sister Veronica Grover will lead the study on the documents and teachings of the church and how we can relate these to modern times. Donations of canned goods will be collected to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 545-1224.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — "Hollywood vs. Faith: the Struggle to Live Faithfully in the Media Age" will be presented by Emmy Award-winning actor Frank Runyeon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Feb. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. Drawing on examples from his 25 years in television, film

and radio, Runyeon will offer suggestions on how to watch TV from the "inside-out." This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeannine Martin at (336) 294-4696 ext. 225.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host HOSEA (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again) for those who have been away from the faith and are interested in getting reacquainted with the Catholic Church. The next session will be Feb. 18 from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Come and have your questions answered. For more information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097 or call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

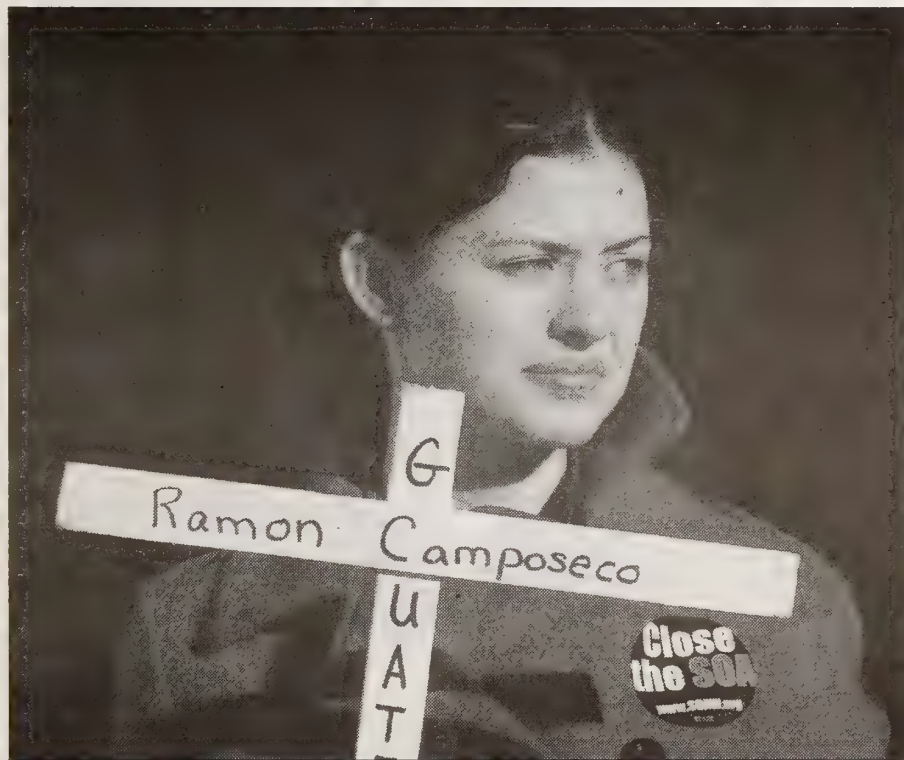
HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A Lenten Mission: "Forgiveness Leads to Wellness and Joy," led by the Father Dennis Corrado will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, March 9-11 at 7 p.m. The mission is free and open to the public. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail at staloysius@charter.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public?

Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Prayers and protest



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Megan Guiver of Dayton, Ohio, joins supporters of SOA Watch during a Feb. 17 protest in Washington urging the U.S. government to close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Ga. The institute used to be called the School of the Americas.

Pope names cardinal to lead Lenten retreat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has asked the former head of the Vatican's worship and sacraments congregation, Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, to lead his 2009 Lenten retreat.

During the March 1-7 retreat, the 76-year-old cardinal will focus on the theme "The Priest Encounters Jesus and Follows Him." Top Vatican officials also attend the annual retreat with the pope.

The choice of the Nigerian cardinal

comes the same year Pope Benedict is making an apostolic visit to Cameroon and Angola in March and presiding over a special Synod of Bishops for Africa in October.

Cardinal Arinze is one of the three African cardinals the pope has named as his delegated presidents for the special synod. The cardinal also served as a delegate president during the 1994 Synod of Bishops for Africa.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 21 (7:15 a.m.)

Mass for candidates in Permanent Diaconate Formation Program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 1 (4 p.m.)

Rite of Election
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

March 7 (1 p.m.)

Rite of Election
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

March 8 (2 p.m.)

Rite of Election
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

For the love of literacy

Catholic recognized by state for volunteer service

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

NORTH WILKESBORO — A parishioner of St. John the Baptista de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro was recognized recently for her work with a Wilkes County literacy program for adults.

Helen Latour was one of 20 people in North Carolina to receive the Medallion Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service and the first ever from Wilkes County to receive the honor.

Implemented in 2006 by the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, the Medallion Award recognizes the top volunteers in the state.

Latour founded Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy in 1989 because she was shocked by the number of adults in the area who could not read beyond a third-grade level.

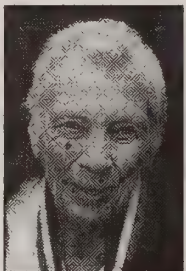
As a teacher, starting a literacy program was a natural fit.

"There was no use complaining," said Latour, who decided to "get down and do something about it."

For the next 17 years she served as director of the program, which provides one-on-one tutoring for illiterate adults as well as after-school tutoring for elementary school students and a children's summer enrichment program.

According to Latour, approximately 20 out of every 100 people in western North Carolina cannot read.

But the problem is not limited to the region.



Helen Latour

"For me, it was a call."

— Helen Latour

"This is not a feature of the south or the backwoods; there are big cities where people cannot read," she said.

"The ability to read is so critical," said Latour, who encourages anyone who feels called to volunteer as a tutor to contact his or her local literacy association.

"I think it's a call," she said. "For me it was a call."

When she started the program, Latour had one thing in mind.

"My goal was to help the individual," she said. "To see the sparkle in a student's eyes when they got a sentence all by themselves, that was the best thing."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Spreading mercy

Sisters of Mercy and Park Ridge Hospital collaborate to provide urgent care

ARDEN — The Sisters of Mercy are expanding their urgent care network.

The new Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care facility will open in Arden April 1. Tim Johnston, president and CEO of Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation, and Jim Bunch, president and CEO of Park Ridge Hospital, made the announcement in a Feb. 12 press release.

The facility, currently operated by Park Ridge Hospital, offers patients convenience and access to quality treatment of minor illness and injuries.

It also will join the Sister of Mercy's existing urgent care network, which includes two facilities in Asheville and one in Weaverville.

"The collaboration of Park Ridge Hospital with Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care is a natural fit as these two faith-based organizations continue to meet the healthcare needs of western North Carolina while focusing on their respective strengths," said Paul Tax, executive director of operations for Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care.

"We all need to focus on our core strengths to provide the highest quality service," said Bunch. "This is what our

"This is what our friends at Sisters of Mercy do best."

— Jim Bunch

friends at Sisters of Mercy do best."

The Sisters of Mercy have owned and operated urgent care centers successfully in Buncombe County for nearly 30 years, and served western North Carolina's health care and service needs since 1900.

In addition to Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care, Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation includes ARP/Phoenix Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services, Mountain Health Contracting general contractors, and the Catherine McAuley MERCY Foundation.

Park Ridge Hospital is an acute care facility that has provided medical care with Christian compassion since 1910. The hospital is one of 37 hospitals in the United States belonging to Adventist Health System.

Crafty ladies



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Ladies Guild of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City are pictured Nov. 11, 2008, during their annual craft fair. The fair, which featured crafts, antiques, cakes and food, raised \$3,700 for the new church building fund.

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Program leads wayward Catholics back to church

HOSEA, from page 1

who have been away from the faith and are interested in coming back to the Catholic Church.

"It's just a way of giving the folks a little nudge to try and get them back into church," said Hitch.

It began three years ago at the church as a project of the parish Evangelization Commission.

"One of the missions of our commission is to provide programs to invite back our brothers and sisters who have not been active in the church," said Larry Kwan, chairman.

Kwan compared HOSEA to a road map for Catholics who are trying to make their way back to the church.

One of the goals of HOSEA is to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere where people's questions can be answered.

"So many of us in the church don't know why we do the things that we do," said Joyce Korabek, a parishioner who was instrumental in implementing the HOSEA program.

HOSEA consists of six weekly

"It's just a way of giving folks a little nudge to try and get them back into church."

— Janice Hitch

sessions that are offered twice a year.

At each of the sessions, a speaker presents a topic and a priest or deacon from the parish is available to answer questions.

Each session also provides opportunities for participants to express their concerns, problems or misunderstandings.

"I think a lot of us were hard on ourselves for whatever reason," said Korabek, who was once a returning Catholic.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lyons family is pictured with Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John Kelly at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church following the baptism of their children Oct. 15, 2006. Scott Lyons is a former participant of the HOSEA program. Also pictured is his wife, Laura, a convert to Catholicism, and their children (from left) Avery, Sophia, William and Anna.

"Some people are slow to discuss because they just want to take it in for a while," she said.

"One of the things I found most helpful was just getting to know people in the church," said Scott Lyons, a past participant.

"Sometimes it is hard to get to know people in a parish when you are new," he said.

The HOSEA groups are typically small, consisting of about three or four people.

"It was a little different than what I expected," said Lyons, who was surprised by the varying backgrounds of his fellow participants.

"I had already decided to come back to the Catholic Church. That was a decision I had already made," he said. "I just wanted to find out as much as possible."

As a baptized Catholic, Lyons began attending an evangelical church with his family when he was 10 years old.

"I came from a very solid faith background even though it wasn't Catholic," he said. "My expectation was to find more people like me."

He was surprised to learn of the different circumstances that had brought the others to the group.

"I had not been a practicing Catholic for quite a number of years," said Ed Scannell, another former participant.

Having recently moved to the area, Scannell started attending Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at the encouragement of his wife.

He saw an announcement in the bulletin for the HOSEA program and decided it was something he wanted to try.

"The people who spoke to us every week were not judgmental about why any of us had not practiced our faith for so long," Scannell said.

"They wanted to show that the

church was welcoming and that there had been a shift in thinking in the church that had occurred since many of us had been practicing Catholics as young people," he said.

That shift, was not to be confused with a shift in morals, he said, but rather a new attitude—one that was "welcoming and non-judgmental."

Scannell's wife, who was not Catholic at the time, attended the HOSEA sessions with him to offer support.

"It gave her a very close-up and interesting perspective on the church that ended up making her want to convert," Scannell said of his wife, Terri, who was baptized during the Easter Vigil last year.

Lyons had a similar experience in that his wife, Laura, also converted to Catholicism. Since then, the Lyons have had all of their children baptized, with the exception of their newborn daughter, who will be baptized at the end of February.

"It's a marvelous program," said Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, who re-emphasized the fact that coming back to the faith really is as simple as putting one foot in front of the other.

As a Catholic, "you have a right to the sacraments and to the life of the parish community," Father Kelly said. "There is no test for you to pass so that you can be worthy of the sacraments."

"We are happy with the success we've had," said Kwan, adding that he hopes the program can be a model for other churches.

The current HOSEA session began Feb. 11 and runs through March 18.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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The pope and Pelosi

Catholic legislators must protect life, pope tells House speaker

BY CINDY WODDEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI met privately with U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House of Representatives, and told her that all Catholics, especially those who are lawmakers, must work to protect human life at every stage.

Pelosi, a Catholic Democrat from California, has been criticized by many Catholics for her support for keeping abortion legal.

"His Holiness took the opportunity to speak of the requirements of the natural moral law and the church's consistent teaching on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death," the Vatican said in a statement about the Feb. 18 meeting.

Natural law and the church's own teaching require "all Catholics, and especially legislators, jurists and those responsible for the common good of society, to work in cooperation with all men and women of good will in creating a just system of laws capable of protecting human life at all stages of its development," the statement said.

Pelosi was making an official visit to Italy to meet members of the U.S. military stationed in the country and to discuss common security concerns with Italian government leaders.

Her 15-minute meeting with Pope Benedict took place in a small room in the Vatican audience hall after the pope's weekly general audience.

In a statement released by her staff, Pelosi said, "In our conversation, I had the opportunity to praise the church's leadership in fighting poverty, hunger and global warming, as well as the Holy Father's dedication to religious freedom and his upcoming trip and message to Israel."

The papal trip is scheduled for the second week of May.

"Being sheep in the midst of wolves doesn't mean we can also be dumb as rocks."

— Archbishop Charles J. Chaput

Pelosi also said, "I was proud to show His Holiness a photograph" from a papal audience she had with her parents in the 1950s, "as well as a recent picture of our children and grandchildren."

Pelosi's husband, Paul, accompanied her to the meeting with the pope.

Abortion and Communion

The speaker has made no secret of her belief that while efforts are needed to reduce the number of abortions in the United States and to help women faced with problem pregnancies, she believes abortion must remain safe and legal.

Coinciding with the 2009 March for Life in Washington, Pelosi issued a statement Jan. 22 saying, "I will work with President Obama, as I have worked throughout my entire career, to ensure a woman's right to choose."

"Decisions about whether to have a child do not and should not rest with the government. We believe a woman — in consultation with her family, her physician and her faith — is best qualified to make that decision," Pelosi said.

As a publicly practicing Catholic and a public opponent of efforts to make abortion illegal, Pelosi has come under sharp criticism by some bishops and other Catholics who believe that a politician who supports legalized abortion should not be allowed to



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA PIERDO MEXICO, REUTERS

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi strolls in Piazza di Spagna in Rome Feb. 16. Pope Benedict XVI met with Pelosi Feb. 18 and told her that all Catholics, especially lawmakers, must work to protect human life at every stage.

receive Communion.

Other bishops, including Pelosi's own Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco, have recognized the public service of such politicians and have opted to engage them in a dialogue on promoting respect for human life in a wide range of public policies.

But Pelosi angered many bishops and other Catholics in August when she told the television program "Meet the Press" that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on when life begins.

She told interviewer Tom Brokaw, "We don't know" when life begins.

"I don't think anybody can tell you when life begins, human life begins. As

I say, the Catholic Church for centuries has been discussing this," she said.

The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees criticized Pelosi, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion" in the interview.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., said the church since the first century "has affirmed the moral evil of every abortion."

"The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable," their statement said. "Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."

In an April 2008 teleconference with Catholic News Service and other media representatives, Pelosi said, "I have a sort of serenity" about receiving Communion even though her position on abortion differs from the church's.

"The church sees it another way, and I respect that," she said, adding, however, that she hoped the U.S. bishops would not use the refusal of holy Communion as a way of punishing Catholic politicians who don't heed church teachings on abortion.

"Think of that word Communion, that which brings us all together as Christians, as Catholics," Pelosi said.

Denying a Catholic the Eucharist "would be something that would shatter that union," she said.

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RESPECT LIFE

'40 Days for Life'

National pro-life campaign to be held in locations around Diocese of Charlotte

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

MOCKSVILLE — During Lent, Catholics in three communities within the Diocese of Charlotte will be participating in a nationwide ecumenical pro-life campaign.

Called "40 Days for Life," the campaign aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting, vigils and public outreach.

The first campaign took place in 2004 in College Station, Texas. In 2007 the effort went nationwide, with campaigns in 89 cities in 33 states. This year, campaigns in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Franklin will be part of the 118 campaigns at abortion clinics in more than 40 states plus locations in Canada and Australia.

The campaign runs from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, through Palm Sunday, April 5.

Through prayer vigils at abortion clinics such as Planned Parenthood, the campaign's purpose is to "touch hearts and minds, save lives and show that extreme pro-abortion policies do not resonate with the values of this nation," said Shawn Carney, national campaign director.

The campaign's original goal was to have 40 churches or groups sign up for one day each, to pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week outside a local abortion clinic for a total of 40 days.

Due to safety and logistics, organizers in the Diocese of Charlotte have scaled back on the hours.

In Charlotte, 10 parishes have signed up so far; in Winston-Salem, five parishes are registered.

Students from Charlotte Catholic High School and Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville plan to participate in the Charlotte and Winston-Salem campaigns, respectively, along

The campaign is to "touch hearts and minds ..."

— Shawn Carney

with groups of homeschooled students and others.

Though abortion is commonly seen as a "women's issue," both women and men are encouraged to participate.

"Men have to be involved in pro-life activities since so often in our society we are the ones who are creating an atmosphere of acceptance for abortion," said Brian Williams, a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

The campaign results include not only lives saved from abortion, but also healing for women who have suffered because of abortions.

"[During the last campaign], one post-abortive woman stopped to talk and we were able to pray with her and give her Rachel's Vineyard information," said Toni Buckler, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry to women who have had abortions.

Buckler also explained the impact of community education during the campaigns. "We were able to hold civil conversations with people who challenged us regarding keeping abortion legal for rape victims, mother's health, etc.," she said.

Other activities planned include door-to-door outreach and letter writing campaigns to raise community awareness.

Correspondent Mary B. Worthington can be reached at marybethworthington@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Pro-life supporters, including employees of the Diocese of Charlotte, take part in a silent vigil outside the Family Reproductive Health Clinic in Charlotte March 13, 2008. The gathering was part of the "40 Days for Life" campaign.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

CHARLOTTE

Kick-off event: Saturday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m. — features speakers, sign-ups and prayer at prayer site.

Prayer Site: outside A Preferred Women's Health Center, 3220 Latrobe Dr. Vigil to be held 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily.

Parking: Along Latrobe Dr., on either side of the street.

More information or to sign up: www.40daysforlife.org/charlotte or call Katherine at (704) 877-2551

WINSTON-SALEM

Kick-off event: Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m. — features speakers, sign-ups and prayer at Holy Family Church, Clemmons.

Prayer Site: across from Forsyth Women's Center/Planned Parenthood, 3000 Maplewood Ave. Vigil to be held 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

Parking: On Bodford St. only, one block from prayer site.

More information or to sign up: www.40daysforlife.org/winstonsalem or contact Donna at (336) 940-2558 or sandonna@aol.com, or Toni at (336) 782-6062 or tpbuckler101@gmail.com.

FRANKLIN

No information available at press time.

For more information: www.40daysforlife.org/franklin.

Catholics encouraged to support specialty plate bill

PLATE, from page 1

of a bill that would make available in North Carolina the plate with the words "Choose Life" and the faces of two children on it.

Funds raised through the sale of the plates would be distributed by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to nonprofit crisis pregnancy centers that do not offer abortion-related services, referrals or counseling.

The rally was co-sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life and North Carolina Pro-Life Democrats. Twenty-two states have approved the plate; North Carolina is the only Southern state that has not allowed the plate and not allowed a vote on it by full assembly. Currently North Carolina issues 122 specialty

license plates that promote issues from environmental causes to colleges.

Among the rally speakers was Msgr. Michael Clay, legislative liaison and lobbyist for Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, who read a statement from both bishops during the news conference.

In their statement, the bishops said they speak "on behalf of hundreds of thousands of Catholics throughout the state of North Carolina who support our request that this bill be allowed a vote by the full legislature and endorse its passage."

With limited financial resources available to the crisis pregnancy centers, the bishops' statement said, "these centers would benefit from the revenue they would receive, at no cost to the state, to assist women in their time of need."

"Surely no one would oppose

assisting a needy pregnant woman who desires to bring her child to birth through funds raised from the sale of a license plate," the bishops said.

Other speakers included two young women who had received assistance from such centers during childbirth.

Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, said the plates would allow more freedom of expression by pro-life Christians. "Anything that we can do to promote the sanctity of life as an issue is important both to the unborn and for the advancement of our Christian mission."

The bishops' statement appealed to "Christians, especially the Catholics in our state, and all people of good will to contact their legislators and ask them to support this legislation and to allow it to be voted on by the full legislature."

Contributing to this story were David Hains and Frank Morock.

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit Catholic Voice NC at www.catholicvoicenc.org.

N.C. bishops to support amending state constitution

Bishops Jugis, Burbidge seek law defining marriage as union between a man, woman

RALEIGH — The dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh will be taking the issue of marriage to N.C. lawmakers.

The bishops of both dioceses will participate in a news conference at the Legislative Building in Raleigh Feb. 24 to announce their support for an amendment to the state's constitution defining marriage as a union of a man and a woman.

Coverage of the news conference and more information will be included in the Feb. 27 edition of The Catholic News & Herald.

Pope says Holocaust denial is 'intolerable ... unacceptable'

Jewish leaders meet with pope at Vatican

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Denying or minimizing the Holocaust "is intolerable and altogether unacceptable," Pope Benedict XVI told a group of U.S. Jewish leaders.

"This terrible chapter in our history must never be forgotten," the pope said during a Feb. 12 meeting at the Vatican with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The papal audience came less than three weeks after the Vatican announced the pope had lifted the excommunication of several traditionalist bishops, including Bishop Richard Williamson, who has said reports about the Nazi slaughter of the Jews have been exaggerated and who claimed no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

The Vatican later published a statement saying that Bishop Williamson would not be welcomed into full communion with the church unless he disavowed his remarks and publicly apologized.

While the pope publicly reaffirmed his recognition of the Holocaust and expressed his respect and esteem for the Jewish people in late January, the February audience was the first time since the Bishop Williamson scandal that the pope met with Jewish leaders to express his feelings and beliefs personally.

Telling the Jewish leaders he wanted to make his own a prayer by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict prayed, "God of our fathers, you chose Abraham and his descendants to bring your name to the nations:

"We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer and, asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

The prayer was the text of the note Pope John Paul left in Jerusalem's Western Wall, one of Judaism's holiest sites, during a March 2000 visit.

Pope Benedict also told the Jewish leaders about his own visit to the Nazis' Auschwitz death camp in 2006.

"As I walked through the entrance to that place of horror, the scene of such untold suffering, I meditated on the countless number of prisoners, so many of them Jews, who had trodden that same path into captivity at Auschwitz and in all the other prison camps," the pope said.

"How can we begin to grasp the enormity of what took place in those infamous prisons?" he asked.

The pope told the leaders, "The hatred and contempt for men, women and children that was manifested in the Shoah was a crime against God and against humanity.

"This should be clear to everyone," the pope said.

"It is beyond question that any denial ... of this terrible crime is intolerable and altogether unacceptable."

— Pope Benedict XVI

"It is beyond question that any denial or minimization of this terrible crime is intolerable and altogether unacceptable," Pope Benedict said.

The German-born pope repeated what he had said during his visit to Auschwitz:

"The rulers of the Third Reich wanted to crush the entire Jewish people, to cancel it from the register of the peoples of the earth. Thus the words of the psalm, 'We are being killed, accounted as sheep for the slaughter,' were fulfilled in a terrifying way."

The pope also told the Jewish leaders that the Catholic Church "is profoundly and irrevocably committed to reject all anti-Semitism" and to build good and lasting relations with the Jewish community.

Reaffirming the importance of remembering the Holocaust, the pope said, "it is my fervent prayer that the memory of this appalling crime will strengthen our determination to heal the wounds that for too long have sullied relations between Christians and Jews."

'A historic day'

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York's Park East Synagogue, which Pope Benedict visited last April, told the group it was "a trying moment in Catholic-Jewish relations" because Bishop Williamson's excommunication was lifted.

The 78-year-old Austrian-born rabbi told the pope, "As a Holocaust survivor these have been painful and difficult days when confronted with Holocaust denial by no less than a bishop."

"The Shoah claimed the lives of 6 million Jewish men, women and children, including my own family in Auschwitz and Terezin," a camp in what is now the Czech Republic, he told the pope.

Addressing the 81-year-old pope, he said, "Your Holiness, we and so many others, who have seen man's inhumanity to man, how can we but revolt at Holocaust denial?"

"In our autumn years," he told the pope, "we must transmit 'never



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York's Park East Synagogue during an audience with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Vatican Feb. 12.

again' through Holocaust education to future generations."

Meeting reporters after the papal audience, Rabbi Schneier said, "This is a historic day," adding that it was "so reassuring to hear the pope say what he had to say about the Shoah."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the U.S. Jewish leaders' group, said, "We came here with heavy hearts" because of the lifting of the excommunication of Bishop Williamson.

But the leaders were pleased by the pope's reaffirmation of the principles of the Second Vatican Council regarding relations with the Jews and his condemnation of anti-Semitism and of Holocaust denial "in the strongest possible words," Hoenlein said.

But Abraham Foxman, U.S. director of the Anti-Defamation League, said "it is always significant when the pope meets with a Jewish group and his words were very important, but it did not bring closure."

While Foxman said he believes in forgiveness, he also believes that Bishop Williamson should not be considered a Catholic until he recants.

"Every moment that he stays in the

church, it gives credibility to him and to his hideous beliefs," he said.

Rabbi David Rosen, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, said the meeting was important for assuring the Jewish community that the Catholic Church and the pope personally are committed to upholding the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and its positive attitude toward the Jewish people and their faith.

"It was a very strong and, I would say, quite moving affirmation of his commitment to Catholic-Jewish reconciliation and opposition to Holocaust denial and any other form of anti-Semitism," he said.

The rabbi also said he believed the uproar surrounding Bishop Williamson could have the positive effect of ensuring uniform acceptance of Vatican II.

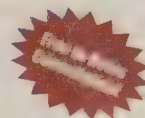
He expressed hope that the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, to which Bishop Williamson belongs, would not be fully reintegrated into the Catholic Church without a serious investigation into the society's teaching on Jews and Judaism and its acceptance of the teachings of Vatican II, which it has opposed.

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Vatican City plays big role in promoting world peace

VATICAN, from page 1

army, seems "apparently irrelevant within the big, international geopolitical strategies," he said.

But precisely because the Holy See is truly free and independent from the world's geopolitical powers it can continually promote solidarity and the common good, he said.

Perhaps it is for that reason that "everyone from every part of the world pays attention to this tiny strip of land," he added.

Vatican City State was established Feb. 11, 1929, when Vatican officials and Italy's Prime Minister Benito Mussolini signed the Lateran Pacts in which the Vatican and the Italian state recognized each other as sovereign nations.

The Vatican organized a Feb. 12-14 congress titled "A Small Territory for a Big Mission," to mark the city-state's 80th anniversary.

The pope told congress participants the Vatican wanted to establish sovereignty so that it could carry out its spiritual mission in the world unimpeded by "the often turbulent events in the sea of history."

The pope thanked all Vatican employees for working at the service of the church with professional skill and honesty.

He prayed Vatican City always would be "a true 'city upon a hill,' radiant for its beliefs and the generous dedication of all those who work in the service of the ecclesial mission of the successor of Peter."

Celebrating a spiritual state

Marking its 80th, Vatican celebrates its growth into nationhood

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The smallest nation in the world is celebrating a relatively young 80th birthday this year.

Although the Catholic Church has a 2,000-year history, Vatican City State was established Feb. 11, 1929, to guarantee that the Holy See and the pope could freely carry out their spiritual mission of confirming Christians in the faith and guiding the universal church.

The transition from the Papal States to nationhood was a long and bumpy road.

Starting in the eighth century, the church wielded temporal power over what was known as the Papal States, a shifting group of territories across parts of modern-day Italy.

The popes at the time were territorial sovereigns and, as such, had to deal with the unpleasant risks and worries of foreign powers bent on invasion, rival Roman emperors and powerful Roman families vying for control of the papacy.

In the 19th century, revolutionaries fought against papal control in their struggle to unify Italy and the Papal States dissolved in 1870 after Rome and the surrounding territories were annexed to a unified country covering the entire peninsula.

A dispute with the Italian government over the sovereignty of the Holy See kept popes confined inside the walls of the Vatican from 1870 to 1929.

The dispute, which became known as the Roman Question, did not seem to have a quick and easy answer.

On the one hand, Italy had legitimate aspirations "to finally achieve its own state unity and, among other things, to designate as its capital Rome, which had been its point of reference for millennia," said a front-page article in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Feb. 11.

But on the other hand, it said, Rome was the see of Peter and his successors. The Holy See legitimately needed a formal and effective guarantee of its independence and freedom, "which are absolutely necessary for the pontiff in order to carry out his spiritual mission on a universal level," the paper said.

No pope wanted to compromise his task as shepherd of the universal church by being under the control and authority of a sovereign leader.

Years of negotiations under Pope Pius XI finally resulted in a resolution. Vatican officials and Italy's Prime Minister Benito Mussolini signed the Lateran Pacts of 1929 in which the Vatican and the Italian state recognized each other as sovereign nations.

Pope Pius, who is considered the founder of the new nation, now had an enormous, nonspiritual task before him: planning and building all the



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

A nun strolls past St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 9. Vatican City State was established Feb. 11, 1929, to guarantee that the Holy See and the pope could freely carry out the spiritual mission of confirming Christians in the faith and guiding the universal church.

infrastructure that would be needed for the smooth functioning of an independent state on 109 acres of land.

A state from scratch

How Vatican City State was built up nearly from scratch is at the center of a new exhibit open in the Braccio di Carlo Magno hall in St. Peter's Square until May 10.

With wall-sized photographic displays and original artifacts from that period, the exhibit aims to send the visitor back in time to witness the birth of a unique nation.

Old maps show how, behind St. Peter's Basilica, acres of vineyards and vegetable gardens that had supplied homegrown goods to the pope and Vatican seminaries were razed to make way for the building of a governor's office.

The administrative office would come to coordinate the functions of some 20 agencies today, including the Vatican Museums and the offices responsible for security, personnel and building maintenance throughout the territory.

The governor's office continues to oversee all the new buildings that were erected under Pope Pius' direction, including the Vatican's railway station, electrical generating plant and radio.

While building a nation out of hilly fields and gardens may have seemed daunting, the Vatican did receive some technical and material help from Italy and even the United States.

The U.S. Western Electric Company and Bell Telephone Laboratories built and supplied the shortwave radio receiver that was used by the newly founded Vatican Radio.

The receiver still works and is turned on so visitors to the exhibition can hear, amid a lot of static, Vatican Radio programming.

Pope Pius had invited the inventor of the radio, Guglielmo Marconi, to build the radio broadcasting station, which was inaugurated Feb. 12, 1931. The exhibit shows a medium wave antenna, a carbon microphone and other instruments Marconi designed for Vatican Radio.

The U.S. International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., known as ITT, published the Vatican's first telephone book in 1930 and the church in the United States provided the Vatican with state-of-the-art equipment and technology for setting up its first central telephone exchange that same year.

The church in the United States also provided a gold and silver papal telephone, which is also on display. Made by ITT, the phone was used for decades, from the time of Pope Pius until the end of Pope John XXIII's pontificate.

A 1931 census report in the exhibit shows 711 people held Vatican citizenship and another 283 noncitizens were resident within its walls, for a total population of 994. The vast majority of citizens and residents were Italians.

The second largest group was formed by the Swiss, almost all of whom were members of the Swiss Guard protecting the pope.

The residents included 23 women, many of whom were married to members of the Swiss Guard. The census that year registered the births of five boys and six girls, who, by virtue of being born on Vatican territory, automatically became Vatican citizens.



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Engaging history book has much for general public, academicians

REVIEWED BY BROTHER JEFFREY GROS, FSC
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Iraq War has brought the presence of Christians in what was once Mesopotamia and Babylon to global attention.

However, what many do not recall is that these centers of the Christian faith were flourishing communities for centuries, with bishops, monasteries and universities, while Germany, Britain and France were still on the barbarian frontier.

Maps of early Christianity often center on the Mediterranean. However, some maps of the Middle Ages show Jerusalem at the center, with Beijing on the Asian right, Britain on the European left and the upper Nile Valley in Africa as the bottommost point, well before Poland and Scandinavia even appear as mission lands.

These ancient Persian and Syrian churches, which at one time rivaled the Latin- and Greek-speaking world in learning, missionary zeal and geographic extension, still exist and carry a significant heritage of our common 2,000 years of Gospel witness.

In 1984 Pope John Paul II and Syrian Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch (now resident in Damascus, and called in this volume the Jacobite Church) signed a common declaration on eucharistic sharing, based on agreements of the 1970s resolving disagreements on the nature and person of Christ dating from 451.

In 1994 a similar declaration was made with the patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East (called here Nestorian), formerly of Baghdad and Persia, now resident in Chicago. These ancient and living Christian communities have a rich history, which now becomes part of our Catholic heritage and our common future.

In "The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa and Asia — and How It Died," Philip Jenkins provides an engaging volume, whose clarity of style and accessible narrative belies the carefully researched and detailed documentation that lies behind such a readable story.

He outlines the rise, heritage and expansion of these churches in the early centuries with centers attributed to the apostles. He describes their successful missionary activity as far as China, India and Indonesia, their rich literary and theological production, and their evangelization of whole cultures.

He gives an engaging and differentiated view of the coming of Islam, its complex relations with its Jewish and Christian roots, and the variety of approaches it took to its Christian neighbors and subjects.

Like Christian relationships with Jews in Europe, periods of toleration

alternate with periods of persecution.

The author gives the lie to those who would characterize the Muslim faith as any more violent in its history than Christianity, or even biblical Judaism. Intolerance, violence and persecution are common characteristics of particular moments in all of the great world religions.

Likewise, there are periods of peaceful coexistence and cultural interchange. He outlines the mutual support of the two and sometimes three communities at particular points in the story.

However, the common thread is the decline of many of these churches in their ancestral Christian homeland, and the extinction of some communities. What will also surprise some is that the final blow to many of these Christian communities came with the violence following World War I in Turkey and some other areas of the Middle East.

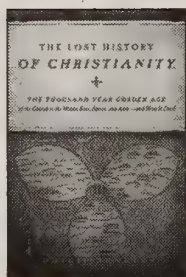
Jenkins also compares and contrasts the reasons for decline and the differences between some communities that went totally extinct, like Latin North Africa, and others that survived heartily, like Christian Spain before the reconquest of 1492 or the Coptic Orthodox Christians of Egypt.

The book, while descriptive and objective, ends with a series of provocative questions that challenge Christian wisdom and secular oversimplifications.

He explores in his last chapter what might be the foundation for a theology of Christian extinction, in the context of a doctrine of God, the church and providence, which attends as much to the vagaries of human history as to the successes of missionary endeavors.

This volume makes an engaging read for the general public and a useful resource for the historian of Christianity and the theologian exploring the doctrine of providence and God's action in human history.

LaSallian Christian Brother Gros is a professor of ecumenical and historical theology at Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and a former staff member of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.



WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAR. 1, 2009

March 1, First Sunday
of Lent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-9
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Suffering can help us see value of life

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Yes, it's the season of Lent, but for many college students it is more famously the season of spring break — the annual week away from academic labors to rest, vacation or party.

But an increasingly popular activity on the college scene is "alternative spring break." The alternative these students choose is to use their week off for community service.

Theresa Eugenio, a Catholic campus minister who graduated from Virginia Tech last spring, will take a dozen students from her school on an alternative spring break trip next week to Flint, Mich.

Virginia Tech, remember, is where a troubled student killed 32 students and faculty members in a mass shooting two years ago. Theresa was a junior at the time. The effects of the tragedy are still palpable in the university community.

But when I visited with Theresa on the campus recently, she explained that the entire community's chosen response to its shared pain was a commitment to serve others.

"I wouldn't say (the event) defines us, but it changed who we are because of our response," she said.

In the immediate aftermath of the shootings, students realized the meaning of supporting and caring for one another, Theresa explained. The intense experience brought them new appreciation of the value of life.

Theresa said that a year after the shootings their campus ministry took a new theme: "going from victim to witness."

This week's Scriptures emphasize God's promise to save his people, made in his covenant with Noah. The promise, Peter says, is relived in our baptism as we are joined to Jesus in his resurrection.

Knowing their baptismal promise, the student ministers at Virginia Tech chose a positive response to the campus tragedy "because we understand the Resurrection story," Theresa said.

Their alternative spring break will include working with students at a high school beset by gang violence.

"We'll talk with them about how you can respond to violence. We have some experience with that," she said.

"We've learned that you can make a choice to honor others — those who have lost their lives and others you are close to — by making your life mean something."

Questions:

What event(s) in your life have helped you understand the Resurrection story? How have you made a life-giving response to personal suffering?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Beloved, Christ suffered for sins once ... that he might lead you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 22-28

Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Monday (St. Polycarp)**, Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday**, Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Friday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1-7

Sunday (First Sunday of Lent), Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-19, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (St. Katherine Drexel)**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (St. Casimir)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity)**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

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Doing their part

Catholic Navy wife's Web site aims to help military families cope

BY KATIE BAHR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Judy McCloskey has learned a lot about surviving in a military family.

A parishioner of St. John the Baptist Church in Front Royal, McCloskey is both a Navy wife and a mother of six, so she has firsthand knowledge of the sacrifices and struggles of faith that go along with a life spent serving one's country.

In 2000, McCloskey realized she wanted to help other Catholic military families try to live out their faith, so she went looking for an organization that would help her do so.

"I served as a sleuth determined to find an already existing lay apostolate focused on the spiritual edification of Catholics serving in the U.S. military — some place I could volunteer and get this out of my system," McCloskey said.

When she realized there was no such organization, McCloskey decided it was up to her to do it herself.

That was when she started the Web-based apostolate CatholicMil.org, which was launched on Christmas Eve in 2001. McCloskey now works full time using her own experiences to help offer guidance and comfort to other military families trying to stay balanced, whether they're stationed overseas or at home waiting for their loved ones to return.

"I wanted to share what I had discovered with other military families and that's exactly what I've done," McCloskey said.

According to the Web site, CatholicMil.org works to "spiritually edify" military families who have immediate family members serving on active duty.

It encourages priests and those entering the priesthood to consider being a military chaplain and serving the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; priests who choose to be military chaplains with the permission of their local bishop are under the jurisdiction of the military archdiocese.

The site also is working on the sainthood cause of Father Vincent Capodanno, a chaplain who was killed while performing last rites for dying soldiers in Vietnam.

While McCloskey is pleased with the results of the Web site, she admitted it has been a huge challenge.

"If I knew then what I know now, would I have still started it? I'm not so sure," McCloskey said. "It's been exceptionally challenging, absolutely."

The hardest part of starting the organization, according to McCloskey, has been trying to juggle the demands of raising her children — sometimes by herself while her husband was deployed — while building the organization



SCREEN GRAB BY CNS

This is a screen grab from CatholicMil.org, a Web-based apostolate dedicated to the spiritual edification of military families. Judy McCloskey, who founded the Web site, is both a Navy wife and mother of six. She and her family attend St. John the Baptist Church in Front Royal, Va.

at the same time.

She attributes the success of the Web site to the entire team of people who have worked on it and, of course, to God.

"It's one of those things where it was going to happen," McCloskey said. "God put a lot of the right people in my path and it was just like everything started to fall into place."

Today, CatholicMil.org works nationally and is recognized by the Department of Defense and supported by Army, Navy and Air Force chaplains.

The apostolate also has developed partnerships with organizations such as the Fulton Sheen Foundation, the National Catholic Register and Catholic

Answers, and has donated more than \$1.16 million in supplies to troops stationed all over the world.

Care packages include Bibles, rosaries and other Catholic items

"CatholicMil is doing what we can to help the too few priests we have ministering to those who serve," said McCloskey.

"Team CatholicMil does our part, and God truly blesses our efforts. God makes the impossible a reality," she said.

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit the site at <http://catholicmil.org>.

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Music and song help listeners contemplate mystery of faith, says pope

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Music and song can help listeners reflect on the beauty and mystery of Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Our Lady's Choral Society of the Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland, and the Irish RTE Concert Orchestra performed Handel's "Messiah" Feb. 12 to mark the 80th anniversary of Vatican City State.

The pope told the guests and performers in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall that the concert demonstrated how music and song easily can be woven together with faith in God.

"Music, like art, can be a particularly great way to proclaim Christ because it is able to eloquently render more perceptible the mystery" of the faith, he said.

The richness of music and harmonies of song "help us contemplate the intense and arcane mystery of Christian faith," he said.

The pope praised the orchestra and



CNS PHOTO BY GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI reads a message after a concert in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 12. The concert marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of Vatican City State.

chorus for their performance and greeted the numerous people from Dublin who attended the concert.

Jumping rope with heart



COURTESY PHOTO

Kristopher Yarbrough, Betsy Scarisbrick and Mariel Green, fifth-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, take part in Jump Rope for Heart Jan. 21 that raised \$682 for the American Heart Association. All classes took part in the national educational fundraising program that engages elementary students in jumping rope while raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research. Students ask friends and family for donations and receive thank-you gifts based on the dollars they raise.



COURTESY PHOTO

Teachers and students of St. Patrick School in Charlotte are pictured Feb. 11 around a display honoring Megan Healy, daughter of the school's computer teacher Kathy Healy, who died 13 years ago due to a virus in her heart. In her honor, the school raised \$15,000 through a Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser to support the American Heart Association. Pictured with Healy (left) are the top-earning students Mary Logan Dodd, Wilson Rose, Luke Dorrian and Anthony Boscia; and teachers Patty Topper and Amy Harrold.

'Coins for Connor'



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders of St. Matthew School in Charlotte hold a giant check Jan. 30 symbolizing the \$1,800 they raised to help with a burned student's medical expenses. The students held a "Coins for Connor" penny wars project during Catholic Schools Week to assist Connor McKerny, a 13-year-old from Tega Cay, S.C., who was severely injured in an explosion from an outdoor fire pit at his home shortly before the homecoming of his father, who was serving in Iraq. His mother came out to help and in the process also was burned.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE and COORDINATOR OF LITURGY AND ADULT FORMATION

St. Andrew's Parish, an active Catholic faith community of 1700 households in Roanoke, Virginia, is seeking two full-time ministers to join our collaborative staff:

- a pastoral associate who would strive to engage all parishioners in the wide range of parish ministries, requiring skills in pastoral presence, recruitment, organization and communications;
- a coordinator of liturgy and adult formation who would resource the parish liturgical ministers and oversee opportunities for adult catechesis and evangelization, requiring knowledge and skill in both areas.

Full job descriptions are available by sending a resume' to Kathy McDaniel at St. Andrew's, 631 N Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA 24016 or email: kmcDaniel@standrewsroanoke.org.

PRINCIPAL - LOWER SCHOOL WALSINGHAM ACADEMY in WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Position Description: Together with the President and Upper School Principal, the Lower School Principal completes the Academy's administrative team. The Principal is responsible to ensure mission integration, provide instructional leadership, ensure overall program and curriculum development, and administer daily operations.

Requirements: The ideal candidate for this position is a practicing Catholic holding a master's degree in administration. A combined minimum of 8 years teaching and administrative experience at the elementary level is required. The candidate should hold, or be eligible to obtain, Virginia State Elementary Certification.

Application Process: Qualified applicants should complete an application which is available at www.walsingham.org and send a resume to the President at mjo@walsingham.org, or President, Walsingham Academy, 1100 Jamestown Road/P. O. Box 8702, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8702.

Application must be received no later than **March 2, 2009**.

COUNSELING SUPERVISOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES - ASHEVILLE, NC



The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville has an immediate opening for a bilingual Regional Counseling Supervisor. This is a bilingual position requiring fluency in Spanish. Previous experience in a Spanish-only therapeutic setting is required. A LCSW licensure is required and three years of post-graduate counseling experience. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This position requires regular travel to Yancey and Burke counties.

This is a three year grant position. Interested applications should submit a resume to: jdrombie@charlottediocese.org. No telephone calls please. EOE

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Poll shows residents of Southern states most religious in country

SOUTH, from page 1

on the list, while several states in the Northeast ranked the lowest.

After more than 350,000 interviews, the survey found that Southern states had the highest percentage of respondents who said they considered religion to be an important part of their daily lives.

Mississippi topped the list with 85 percent of those surveyed claiming that religion was important.

Vermont was named the least religious state, with just 42 percent of respondents there who said they were religious.

The data for the poll was collected throughout 2008 via telephone interviews of 355,334 U.S. residents over the age of 18.

According to the Princeton-based polling organization, the poll accounted for varying demographics within each state to ensure the accurate representation of the state's population.

Overall, Gallup found that the United States is generally a religious country.

Sixty-five percent of the total population said religion was an important part of their lives.

However, Gallup reported that in surveying countries around the world the median percentage of respondents who saw religion as part of their lives was 82 percent.

After Mississippi, the states with the highest percentage of residents who said religion was important to them were: Alabama (82), South Carolina (80), Tennessee (79), Louisiana and Arkansas (both 78), Georgia (76), North Carolina (76), Oklahoma (75), and Kentucky and Texas (both 74).

Just above Vermont at the bottom of the list was New Hampshire with 46 percent of residents who said religion was important; next came Maine and Massachusetts, both with 48.

Other states at the bottom were Alaska (51), Washington (52), Oregon and Rhode Island (both 53), Nevada (54) and Connecticut (55).

In the middle of the list, which included the District of Columbia (61), were Ohio and Iowa, where 65 percent and 64 percent, respectively, of residents put a high importance on religion in their lives.

In the Southwest, New Mexico ranked 21st on the list with 65 percent, and Arizona was 34th with 61 percent.

Importance of Religion

About two-thirds of all Americans say religion is an important part of their daily life.

Percent who say religion is an important part of their daily life.

- 80-85
- 70-79
- 60-69
- 50-59
- 40-49



Results based on telephone interviews with 355,334 U.S. adults conducted in 2008. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 1 percentage point for most states, and as high as plus or minus 4 percentage points for Wyoming and North Dakota.

Source: Gallup Poll

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Researchers explained that ethnic and racial distribution could account for the different levels of religiosity across the country, with certain demographic groups in some states having stronger levels of religious affiliation.

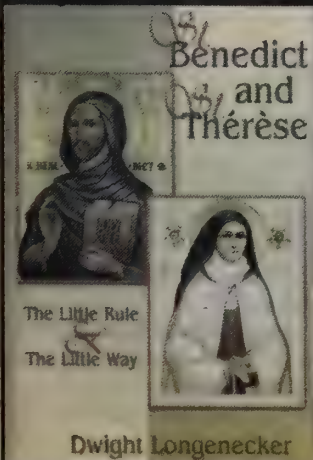
Each state also has a different culture, which can impact the level of importance residents give religion in

their lives, according to the poll.

Regarding other countries, a resounding 100 percent of residents in Egypt reported that religion was important in their lives.

On the other end of the spectrum, just 14 percent of the population in Estonia in northern Europe said they were religious.

MARCH 7: FATHER DWIGHT LONGENECKER AND "SHROUD OF TURIN" EXPERT KEVIN E. MORAN LEAD A LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION



Come "prepare the way of the Lord" in your heart with our very special Lenten Day of Reflection, beginning at 9:45 a.m. on March 7th in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College.

Our reflection leaders will be renowned author and chaplain Father Dwight Longenecker, who will be speaking in the morning (9:45-10:45 a.m.), and then "Shroud of Turin" expert Kevin Moran will be making a very special presentation on the Shroud in the afternoon (1:30 to 2:30 p.m.). In between, you are warmly invited to join us at Mass in the Abbey Basilica (beginning at 11 a.m.) and for lunch.

Father Longenecker's talk will be derived from his acclaimed book "St. Benedict and St. Therese - A Little Way Through Lent." The book reflects on the lives and teachings of these two great saints, which complement one another in surprising and beautiful ways. It compares them to a father and daughter in the family of faith and points the way for their wisdom to change our lives.

Kevin Moran's topic is "The Holy Shroud: The Evidence of Our Salvation." He will also be discussing in detail the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

Admission is just \$25 per person. A copy of a profoundly moving new booklet written by Dr. Ron Thomas, Assistant Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College, entitled "Meditations on the Stations of the Cross," plus a sit-down lunch are included in the price. Our seating capacity is limited, so please register online to reserve your seat here:

www.belmontabbeycollege.edu/LentenDayofReflection

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Here's why "it's just not right"

Birth of octuplets helps make bioethics part of public conversation

It took the birth of eight children to accomplish this: Bioethics is now on the national agenda, part of the public conversation.

The facts are well-known: a California woman — already the mother of six children — gave birth in late-January to octuplets and has since been making the most of it on the publicity trail.

Nadya Suleman, unemployed, unmarried and irresponsible, has done what several popes and innumerable theologians and ethicists have been unable to do: interest people in the right and wrong of tinkering. Should we do something just because technology enables us to do it?

Suleman said all 14 children born to her are the result of in vitro fertilization from sperm donated by a friend. Besides the octuplets, her six other children, including a set of twins, range in age from 2 to 7.

"It was always a dream of mine to have a large family, a huge family," she said in the first of a several television interviews. "I just longed for certain connections that I really lacked, I believe, when I was growing up."

There is no evidence to suggest this is anything other than a rational, calculated act by one woman to satisfy selfish desires with little or no concern for the eventual effect on 14 human beings.

If Suleman wanted to do this for a warped but sincere reason, why then hire two publicists and glory in national publicity?

Her publicists say she is reviewing offers to write a book. (Under what title? The better are taken: "Eight Is Enough," "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "All My Children.")

The marketing is distasteful.

Reaction has dwelt on the public policy or economic question. Who is to tell a woman how many children she may have and by what method?

How will medical expenses surrounding the birth and future expenses be paid?

People feel there is something wrong with this, that "it's just not right."

Such artificial procreation violates moral principles, an attempt by man to "take the place of his Creator."

That was said in a document personally approved by the pope and released in December to update a 1987 instruction that rejected in vitro fertilization, human cloning, surrogate motherhood and nontherapeutic

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



experiments with human embryos.

The primary rejection of in vitro, according to the Vatican document, is that it separates procreation from the conjugal act in marriage:

"The child has the right to be conceived, carried in the womb, brought into the world and brought up within marriage. It is through the secure and recognized relationship to his own parents that the child can discover his own identity and achieve his own proper human development."

The document further stated that "there are those who say that the moral teaching of the church contains too many prohibitions. In reality, however, her teaching is based on the recognition and promotion of all the gifts that the Creator has bestowed on man such as life, knowledge, freedom and more."

"Behind every no in the difficult task of discerning between good and evil there shines a great yes to the recognition of the dignity and inalienable value of every single and unique human being called into existence."

A child is a gift, not a right, not a product owned by the parents.

The state can petition a court for custody of children of an unfit mother. Suleman has proven to be just that.

There is a difference between parenting and breeding, a distinction not understood by Suleman.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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A bright light of life

A tribute to Dr. Gilberto Dalmau Colina

Guest Column

TONY
LOPEZ-IBANEZ
GUEST COLUMNIST

If you have ever gotten lost in a foreign land, you know the unique feeling of isolation that comes when you don't know where you are and can't communicate with anyone.

For a refugee, the loneliness is more frightening because you don't have a home, a safe haven, a place you know you will eventually return to.

That was the feeling of my family when we came to Charlotte from Cuba in 1961. We had escaped the Communist oppression of Fidel Castro but were adrift in a place where we didn't know the language, customs or people — with one exception.

Dr. Gilberto Colina came to the United States from Cuba in 1932. In 1940, fresh out of the University of South Carolina with a degree in pharmacology, he settled in Charlotte.

Colina was an innovator. For more than 30 years he was the chief pharmacist at Mercy Hospital, where he developed many of the techniques and pharmacy protocols that are still in use. He taught pharmacy basics to young nurses and dental technicians. In 1958, he founded the Charlotte Poison Control Center, the first service of its kind in this area.

Over the past five decades many lives have been saved by the advice given for the care of accidental poisoning victims. But it was what he did in the early 1960s that Colina is fondly remembered for among the Cubans who came to Charlotte.

As refugees we gravitated toward the things that were familiar to us — for starters, that meant the Catholic Church. We were spread out among the parishes of St. Ann, St. Patrick, Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Consolation.

When we were sick, we chose the Catholic Mercy Hospital for treatment.

There we found a Cuban who helped us with medications and frequently gave us samples of vitamins.

Colina was someone who spoke our language, understood our culture and took the time to show us the way to survive and then thrive in this great land called America.

He helped us find homes, jobs, schools for the children and, ultimately, a safe haven.

When a member of my family was in the hospital, we would call Dr. Colina, who had a way of explaining what was going on that brought comfort to the sick and to all of us who were praying for a speedy recovery.

Beyond the list of professional achievements and humanitarian contributions to Charlotte, Colina was a man of warmth and unconditional love. Everyone who knew him came away with an unforgettable impression of a man who cared.

Colina died Feb. 1. He was 94. In heaven he joins the many souls he helped in Charlotte.

He will be missed, but the bright light of his life continues to shine through the love of the people like me who he helped.

Tony Lopez-Ibanez is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Action over thinking

The "Catholic social thinkers" who met with the Obama administration ("Catholic concerns: Obama administration gets advice from Catholic social thinkers," Feb. 6) do not express the views of most Catholics any more than Bishop Richard Williamson's denial of the Holocaust represents the views of most Catholics.

Letters to the Editor

If they want to speak for the Catholic Church, let them do it by publicly condemning Speaker Pelosi, Sen. Kennedy, Vice President Biden and other Catholic politicians who promote the murder of unborn babies and the proliferation of homosexual marriage.

—A.J. Bele
Lexington

Consequences needed

Why doesn't the Catholic Church send a message to those lawmakers who are supporting anti-Catholic doctrine (such as, abortion) by excommunicating them?

If there are no consequences to be paid for their actions, why would we expect any changes in their beliefs?

—Mark Hoidas
Cornelius

The mystical body of Christ

'Miracle' crash landing a metaphor for Christian life

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview a good friend of mine — one of the 155 survivors of the “miracle on the Hudson,” the US Air flight 1549 that crashed into the Hudson River — while I was writing a story for a local newspaper.

Perhaps it was the magnitude of his ordeal, or maybe it was because we are close friends, but for whatever reason, his story made an extraordinary impact on my faith journey.

I found myself reflecting on his experience for days after the interview, reliving in my head the emergency landing. At the same time, I was trying to imagine what it would be like to face the possibility of such a tragic death without the chance to say goodbye to my family.

It was horrific, but it had a happy ending.

There has been much coverage of this miraculous emergency landing and I have followed it closely. Something that really struck me was the bond developed between the passengers and the flight crew after the crash — they said that

surviving bonded them for life.

Immediately, I noticed the similarities to what we refer to in church doctrine as the “mystical body of Christ.”

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Cor. 12:12-13a).

By virtue of our baptism we share in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the miracle of miracles. Similarly, we, by the same baptism, are a part of the “miracle on the Hudson” — as the crash is a great metaphor for the Christian life.

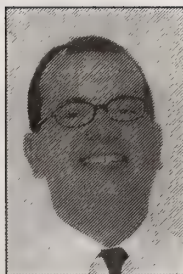
The plane is a metaphor for Jesus, the river is Calvary and the pilot is a figure of God, always in control in the midst of external chaos, always looking out for his passengers’ safeguard.

And the passengers are all of us — everyone — since we are the mystical body of Christ.

The plane had to be ditched in the water for survival in the same way

Guest Column

RICO DE SILVA
GUEST COLUMNIST



Jesus had to be crucified on the cross to die for our eternal survival. The timely rescue, minutes later, is like his timely resurrection three days later.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Because of the “miracle of Calvary,” all Christians share a similar, if not stronger, bond with those 155 people aboard flight 1549. As a part of Christ’s body, we participate and relive in our daily lives his passion, death and resurrection.

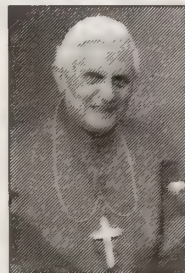
So let us rejoice together with them and give thanks to God for the “miracle on the Hudson.” And let us not forget that, no matter how severe a share of Calvary we face presently, it will have a happy ending.

De Silva is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

With its diversity, Catholic Church is united in Christ, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church is not limited to one particular culture or language, but with its diversity it is united in Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The catholicity of the church reflects a “fidelity to tradition together with being open to developments in history” and to the search for unity in the diversity of cultures, the pope said Feb. 18 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope’s talk focused on St. Bede the Venerable, an eighth-century Christian writer and doctor of the church. The British saint saw the church grow from being rooted in Jewish, Greek and Roman cultures to becoming a truly universal body, he said.

“The church is not restricted to one particular culture, but is made up of all cultures of the world that are open and they find their point of destination in Christ,” he said.

The pope said St. Bede’s “rich ecclesial, liturgical and historical vision enabled his writings to serve as a guide” that is still useful today for Catholic teachers, pastors and parents.

Here is the text of the pope’s audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the early Christian writers of East and West, we now turn to St. Bede the Venerable.

A monk of the monastery of Wearmouth in England, Bede became one of the most learned men of the early Middle Ages and a prolific author, while also gaining a reputation for great holiness and wisdom.

His scriptural commentaries highlight the unity of the Old and New Testaments, centered on the mystery of Christ and the church. Bede is best known, however, for his historical writings, in which he traced the history of the church from the Acts of the Apostles, through the age of the Fathers and councils, and down to his own times.

His ecclesiastical history recounts the church’s missionary expansion and growth among the English people. Bede’s rich ecclesial, liturgical and historical vision enable his writings to serve as a guide for the church’s teachers, pastors and religious in living out their vocations in the service of the church’s mission. His great learning and the sanctity of his life earned Bede the title of “venerable,” while the rapid spread of his writings made him a highly influential figure in the building of a Christian Europe.

Dealing with job-search discouragement

Persistence can activate hidden optimism within us

Several weeks ago, Microsoft eliminated 5,000 jobs and IBM notified an undisclosed number of employees that they would be subject to a “resource action.” That’s a new term for layoffs. Hundreds of thousands are out of work and looking.

Some job seekers find themselves for the first time asking someone else for help. They find this distasteful.

Unaccustomed as they are to asking for help, they are even less prepared for the refusal and rejection those requests will draw. Not flat-out rejections; those will be rare.

But letters have a way of being set aside, resumes get lost, promised calls become promises broken.

This leaves the job seeker even more alone and much discouraged.

Below these surface-level disappointments lies a substratum of discouragement in many that calls out for the durability of hope; a call that does not ordinarily get an immediate response.

Hope is needed to provide the courage to endure. Those who experience job loss need immediate and repeated assurance that they have not been laid off from life.

Back in the 1960s when college students were supposed to be unreflective activists, Jim Beek, a student at Loyola College in Baltimore, wrote a poem for

the campus literary quarterly that speaks to the heart of the problem the person searching for work has to confront.

The poem opened with the line: “I awoke in the silent fist of the night gagging on loneliness.” Then, several lines later, Beek writes: “And the fear that my existence wasn’t doing/ anyone any good/ Was under my fifth rib.”

So he prays “to a god who would have nothing to do with a stained-glass window,” and gets this reply: “Son/ This is the pain that lets you know you’re alive.”

The fear that your existence isn’t “doing anyone any good” adds a lot of heavy freight to a job seeker’s discouragement.

If, as the psychologists remind us, depression is inverted anger — i.e., anger turned in on itself — discouragement might be thought of as an aching awareness of not being needed.

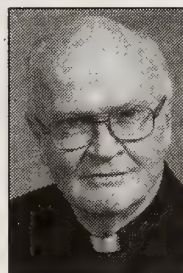
The pain is there “under my fifth rib” all right, but it can serve as a reminder that the job-seeker is alive, a full member of the human race, ready to contribute and walking a path of persistence that leads to another job.

There’s that word: persistence. Discouragement erodes it, undercuts it, puts the fire out.

The really discouraged person stops looking. The persistent person

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



never gives up.

Persistence can activate the optimism that lies hidden in the inner person, somewhere in the nervous system, ready to spring.

But you have to try it to become convinced. You have to believe that the other side of every “out” is “in,” and that any exit is an entrance in reverse. Every ouster is the starting gate for a comeback.

You deal with discouragement by not giving up. You simply decide not to live your life “back there”; dredging up the past can be a real depressant.

You decide to take life one day at a time, asking yourself: What is most important in my life right now?

And you know, as you look at your potential, your family responsibilities and the economic realities of your existence, you realize that the most important thing for you right now is getting a job.

Add your personal “Amen” to William Faulkner’s line in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech: “I believe that man [woman would, of course, be specifically included today] will not merely endure: He will prevail.”

"She was an inspiration to me and to so many others."



CNS PHOTO BY DOUGLAS HEALEY

Beverly Eckert, one of 50 victims of the Feb. 12 plane crash near Buffalo, N.Y., is seen attending a Sept. 11, 2003, memorial service in Westport, Conn. Eckert, whose husband, Sean Rooney, was killed in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, was en route to Jesuit-run Canisius High School in Buffalo to present a scholarship award in honor of her late husband.

Twin tragedies

Crash claims 9/11 widow heading to Jesuit school's scholarship event

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Beverly Eckert, a victim of the Feb. 12 plane crash near Buffalo, N.Y., was en route to present a scholarship award in honor of her late husband at Jesuit-run Canisius High School in Buffalo.

Eckert, a Sept. 11 widow, also had planned to take part in a weekend celebration in Buffalo of what would have been her husband's 58th birthday.

Her husband, Sean Rooney, died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. That day he spoke to his wife by cell phone up until the second tower — where he was trapped — collapsed. A vice president for risk management services at the Aon Corp., he worked on the 98th floor.

Eckert, a resident of Stamford, Conn., was aboard Continental Flight 3407 from Newark, N.J., to Buffalo when it crashed into a home seven miles from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport, killing all 49 passengers and crew and one person on the ground.

According to initial reports, the plane was coming in for a landing through light snow and fog. Witnesses said they heard the plane's engines sputtering before it struck the house in a fiery explosion.

Eckert, 57, had long been an active voice for the Sept. 11 victims. She founded an advocacy group called Voices of September 11th. She also co-chaired the 9/11 Family Steering Committee, a group that investigated potential failures by the U.S. government that may have led to the terrorist attacks.

She also lobbied Congress to pass intelligence reform, spearheaded protests for more land for a memorial at ground zero, and pushed for a compensation fund for family members of the 9/11 victims.

In early February, Eckert attended a White House meeting with President Barack Obama, along with other 9/11 activists, to discuss how the new administration would handle terror suspects.

"Beverly lost her husband on 9/11

and became a tireless advocate for those families whose lives were forever changed on that September day," Obama said during a Feb. 13 White House event.

"In keeping with that passionate commitment, she was on her way to Buffalo to mark what would have been her husband's birthday and launch a scholarship in his memory," he said.

"So she was an inspiration to me and to so many others, and I pray that her family finds peace and comfort in the hard days ahead," said the president.

At Canisius High School, Eckert was active in the school's capital campaign and in supporting the Sean Rooney Memorial Scholarship established in 2002. Rooney was a member of the class of '69, one year behind another Canisius graduate, NBC News journalist Tim Russert, who died last year.

Eckert, who met Rooney at a Canisius dance when they were 16, also had been raising funds to name one of the school's new science labs in her husband's memory.

The Feb. 13 scholarship presentation she planned to attend has been postponed.

"Beverly was a lovely woman who spent the last several years working hard to take the tragedy of Sean's death and have something positive come from it," said John Knight, president of Canisius High School, in a Feb. 13 statement.

"She was committed to Canisius and the outstanding education her husband received," he added.

The Rooney scholarship is awarded to a high-achieving student who demonstrates financial need. When possible, the award is given to a graduate of the Catholic Academy of West Buffalo, where Rooney attended elementary school, or to a west Buffalo resident.

The first recipient of the scholarship was Remy Uwilingiyimana, who fled from Rwanda in 1995.

Eckert wrote in a 2006 letter to the school that the memorial scholarship had "more than exceeded my expectations of finding some way to counteract the destructive intent of terrorism."

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CNS PHOTO BY GARY WIEPERT, REUTERS

Firefighters are seen Feb. 13 at the site of the wreckage of Continental Connection Flight 3407, which crashed in Clarence Center, N.Y. Fifty people were killed when the passenger plane crashed Feb. 12 into a house near Buffalo and burst into a ball of flames.

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

SENIOR STEWARDS



CNS PHOTO BY THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Judy McGary talks to a reporter about the commitment she and her husband, John, have made to organic farming while John sorts spring salad mix into containers for their customers at their farm in Petersburg, Tenn., Dec. 18. The McGarys, who have been married 48 years, retired from their first careers and now run a vegetable farm and participate in a community-supported agriculture program.

Retired couple's farming practices benefit community

PETERSBURG, Tenn. (CNS) — On a chilly and damp winter morning, John McGary kneels in front of row upon row of green leafy vegetables, sorting through freshly picked spring salad mix and carefully packing it into plastic containers for his customers.

He and his wife of 48 years, Judy McGary, will deliver the salad mix, tucked into a box alongside sweet potatoes, butternut squashes, radishes, greens and apples, to drop-off points in Nashville later that day.

"There's nothing like taking these boxes of fresh vegetables to families and seeing how excited they are," said Judy McGary.

Nestled in the rolling hills of Lincoln County near the Alabama border, the farm operated by the McGarys is one of the few vegetable farms in an area where most land is devoted to cattle and horse farming.

The McGarys also have the distinction of being one of the few certified organic community-supported agriculture programs in the state that operates through the winter. In a community-supported agriculture program, customers purchase a "share" of the crops that are grown, and in return get a box of produce.

Instead of easing into retirement like many couples their age, the McGarys work the land every day, growing and harvesting vegetables and driving hundreds of miles a week to deliver them.

"Our children think we are crazy to be working so hard at our ages, but we have been blessed with good health and feel that we are being good stewards of our land which is dedicated to growing food for our farm supporters' tables,"

said Judy McGary, the mother of three grown children.

With no other regular employees, John, 70, a retired electrical engineer, and Judy, 67, a retired nurse, do everything from planting seeds to marketing the business themselves.

When they were both sick for two weeks during the fall, they still had to harvest and deliver the produce on time. When deer "picked the tomatoes clean" one growing season, the McGarys had to scramble to fill the customers' boxes with an alternate vegetable.

While they have never missed a delivery, "some weeks we haven't been able to deliver what we would have liked," John McGary said.

"A lot of things are not in your control," added his wife, a lifelong Catholic whose home parish is Holy Spirit Church in Huntsville, Ala. "Faith plays a real important part in farming, and everything you do," she added.

This winter season, 65 families signed up to receive a weekly box of produce from them. Since the subscribers know they will receive only what the farmer has available, they agree to share in the rewards and risks that befall the farmer.

Community-supported agriculture, said Judy McGary, "is about building relationships."

With 150 shares sold to customers last summer, the McGarys expect even more this year. But, Judy McGary said, "the organic farming movement is still finding its place in the world."

However, John McGary added, "our customers are willing to sacrifice a little to get fresh, local food."

Argentina gives traditionalist bishop 10 days to leave country

Government says comments insulted society, Jews

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — The government of Argentina announced Feb. 19 that traditionalist Bishop Richard Williamson had 10 days to leave the country or be expelled, news media reported.

The Interior Ministry said British-born Bishop Williamson "has concealed the true motive for his stay in the country" because he said he was an employee of a nongovernmental group when he was serving as rector of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years.

The government also said Bishop Williamson's remarks that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers insulted and offended Argentine society and the Jewish community.

Bishop Williamson was removed as head of the seminary in La Reja in early February.

In January Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunication of Bishop Williamson and three other traditionalist bishops.

The bishops were ordained against papal orders in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, founder of the Society of St. Pius X.

The Vatican later published a statement saying that Bishop Williamson would not be welcomed into full communion with the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized.

Bishop Richard Williamson complied with the 10-day deadline and boarded a plane to London Feb. 24.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

becky.hannah@gmail.com, or Sande Donecho at (828) 697-7420 or sdonecho@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A special Mass for Theology on Tap will be held March 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church. Pizza and refreshments will be available in the church annex after Mass. To RSVP, e-mail jennifer.eues@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., is offering a weeklong guided Ignatian Lenten Retreat. The opening session will be Feb. 28 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Biss Hall (beneath the church) and the closing session will be March 7 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at the conclusion of the retreat. Registration is required for individuals interested in the guided retreat. If you are unable to make the guided retreat, you are invited to attend the opening and/or closing session[s]. The retreat and parking in the Green Parking Garage are free. To register or for more information, call (704) 332-2901 or visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — A Blood Give-In will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room March 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1. Walk-ins will be taken as time permits. Donors must bring a picture ID. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host a series of talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Note that the talk scheduled for March 9 has been moved to March 2. No pre-registration

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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FEBRUARY 27, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 17

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says papal role is one of authority, service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the papacy is a role of authority and service in the church, and he asked for the prayers of Catholics so that he can accomplish the tasks entrusted to him.

The pope made the remarks to pilgrims at his Sunday blessing at the Vatican Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

He said the chair of St. Peter "symbolizes the authority of the bishop of Rome, who is called to carry out a special service for the whole people of God."

He said the unique ministry of the pope was confirmed by the Second Vatican Council, which spoke of papal primacy as presiding over particular churches in a universal communion of charity.

Part of the pope's role is to protect legitimate differences while assuring that such differences do not hinder unity, he said.

Pope Benedict, noting the approach of Lent, also spoke of the need for penitence. He said the Gospel reading about the paralytic cured by Jesus showed that Christ had the power to forgive sins as well as effect physical healing.

"Sin is a type of paralysis of the spirit from which only the power of God's merciful love can free us, allowing us to pick ourselves up and resume the path of good," he said.

He asked Mary to open people's hearts to conversion during this year's Lenten season. The pope celebrated an Ash Wednesday liturgy Feb. 25 in Rome, and will make a weeklong Lenten retreat in early March.

is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088 ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — *Solemn vespers of Lent* will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the church and completes the Divine Service for that day. The evening vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 1, Father Roger Arnsperger will give the reflection on the first word, "Father, forgive them they know not what they do." On March 8, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give the reflection on the second word, "This day thou shalt be with me in paradise." For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — A *Lenten Day of Reflection for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Their Friends and Family* will be presented by Mercy Sister Rita Marie Pickhinke at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sister Pickhinke has worked with deaf people since 1964 and is the founder of the program, Catholic Ministry to Deaf People, Inc. She holds degrees in teaching in special education and deaf education. This event is free and lunch will be provided. To register, go to www.stmatthewcatholic.org. For more information, contact Jo Ann Van Camp at jvcxtwo@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Matthew Columbiettes (Auxiliary 10852)* invite all women who are past or present members of a Columbiettes organization and are looking to attend meetings in the Charlotte area. The group meets at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the second Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in Room 204 of the New Life Center. For more information, e-mail columbiettes10852@yahoo.com or call membership chairwoman Anita at (704) 900-8605.

MINT HILL — A *Lenten preparation program for adults* will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700

Lawyers Rd., Saturday afternoons during Lent from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The first session will be Feb. 28. Sister Veronica Grover will lead the study on the documents and teachings of the church and how we can relate these to modern times. Donations of canned goods will be collected to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 545-1224.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* will meet March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Lenten Mission: "Forgiveness Leads to Wellness and Joy"* led by the Father Dennis Corrado will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, March 9-11 at 7 p.m. The mission is free and open to the public. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail staloysius@charter.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Catholic Church activity in Vietnam is not political, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican delegation told Vietnamese officials that the Catholic Church's religious activities there would not be conducted for political purposes.

Msgr. Pietro Parolin, Vatican undersecretary of state, led the delegation to Vietnam Feb. 16-17 for meetings with officials of the central government to discuss the possibility of establishing full diplomatic relations.

The Vatican officials also visited the government committee for religious affairs, the Catholic bishops' conference, and the Thai Binh and Bui Chu dioceses.

In a statement Feb. 20, the Vatican press office said the latest round of talks showed that "positive progress has been made in the religious life in Vietnam." It expressed the hope that unsolved bilateral questions between Vietnam and the Holy See "could be settled with good will through sincere dialogue."

Msgr. Parolin told Vietnamese officials that the Vatican respects Vietnam's independence and sovereignty and that the church's religious activities are not conducted for political purposes.

The Vatican official told them the church "invites the faithful to be good citizens, working for the common good of the country," the statement said.

The Vatican and Vietnam do not have diplomatic relations, but Vatican diplomats make annual visits to Vietnam to discuss church-state relations and specific questions related

to the appointment of bishops, seminary enrollment and the functioning of Catholic institutions.

There are continued restrictions on Catholic life in the country and the Vietnamese government continues to insist on approving the candidates for bishop before the pope names them officially.

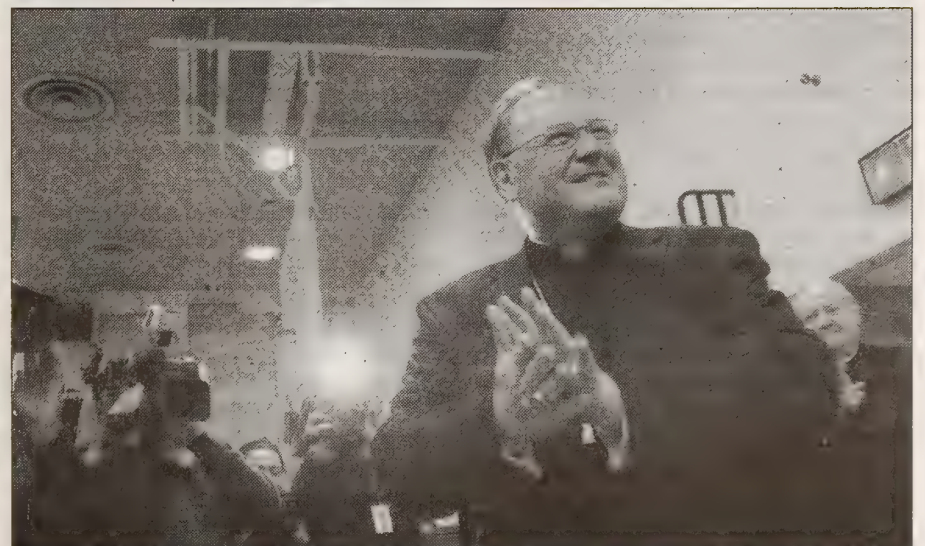
According to the Vatican statement, the head of the Vietnamese delegation, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Quoc Cuong, emphasized that Vietnam had a "consistent policy on the freedom of belief."

The Vietnamese official expressed his hopes that the Vatican would continue to actively contribute to the life of the Catholic community in Vietnam, that relations between religious groups and all people in Vietnam would be strengthened, and that the Catholic Church would further unite itself with Vietnam through its practical contributions toward the building of society.

The talks represented the first time the Vietnam-Vatican Joint Working Group convened and both sides agreed that the first meeting of the group "was a new and important step forward in their bilateral relations."

They also agreed that "greater efforts should be made to further promote bilateral ties." Nothing official had yet been set on where and when the next Joint Working Group meeting would be held.

A new shepherd



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee arrives for a news conference at Cathedral High School in New York Feb. 23. Pope Benedict XVI has named him to succeed Cardinal Edward M. Egan (right) as archbishop of New York. Archbishop Dolan will be installed April 15 at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

President Obama calls Archbishop Dolan with congratulations, prayers

YONKERS, N.Y. (CNS) — President Barack Obama called Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan Feb. 23 to congratulate the Milwaukee archbishop on his appointment as head of the New York Archdiocese.

The 59-year-old archbishop spoke about what he called the "extraordinarily gracious" call during a late afternoon

visit to St. Joseph's Seminary in the Yonkers suburb of Dunwoodie, where he celebrated evening vespers and had dinner with seminarians.

He said he and the president briefly discussed the financial problems facing the United States, and he invited Obama to his April 15 installation and said the president told him, "I assure you of my prayers."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 1 (4 p.m.)
Rite of Election
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

March 7 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for candidates of
Deacon Formation Program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 7 (1 p.m.)
Rite of Election
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

March 8 (2 p.m.)
Rite of Election
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

Welcome ministry says goodbye



COURTESY PHOTO

The Handmaids of Mary at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte has served as a welcome committee for new parishioners since shortly after the church was established in 1957. Pictured (from left) are members Margaret Derrick, Leone Hanson, Lois Britton, Rita Damare, Jean Escott, Nell Farley, Mary Raymond and Helen Means (seated). Not pictured is Pat Collins.

Group leaves behind legacy of hospitality

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — After many years of saying hello to new parishioners, one of the oldest ministries at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte is saying goodbye.

The Handmaids of Mary has served as a welcome committee for new parishioners since shortly after the church was established in 1957.

The group, which began as a chapter of the worldwide organization, the Legion of Mary became a parish ministry under its new name in 1989.

Their purpose was to welcome new parishioners to the parish, originally by home visits and eventually by phone calls.

"We met weekly and said the rosary in the chapel," said Nell Farley, who has overseen the ministry for the past 26 years.

Each week the group acquired the names of new parish registrants.

"We would all take some of them and give them a call," Farley said.

"The blessing to the parishioners of St. Gabriel from the Handmaids of Mary has been the many rosaries prayed for them," said Deacon Ben Wenning, permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church.

"And that each and every one of them was made to feel welcome

"The blessing to the parishioners ... has been the many rosaries prayed for them."

— Deacon Ben Wenning

by a visit or a phone call after they registered," he added.

In recent years, the group's numbers have dwindled, which is the primary reason they are ending the ministry.

"We're getting up in years," said Farley, who added that the need for their service isn't as necessary as it once was.

When Farley joined the group back in 1982, there weren't as many ways for parishioners to get involved at the church.

"At that time there weren't the ministries that we now have," she said. "Our church does a lot of other things to welcome new members."



Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March:

Rev. P. Patrick Gavigan	2007
Rev. Robert A. Gibson	1987
Rev. Francis Gorham	1981
Rev. John Huston	1976
Rev. Justin J. Pechulis	1983

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

All good things ...

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales to leave parish after 18 years

GREENSBORO — After nearly two decades of parish service, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales are leaving St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Oblate Father James J. Greenfield, provincial of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, made the announcement in a press release Feb. 18.

The Oblates have staffed the parish of 1,433 families since 1991. Oblate Father William Ruhl has been pastor since 2004.

The Oblates will continue to staff and serve four other parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte. The departure from St. Paul the Apostle Church is due to Father Ruhl's upcoming retirement in combination with other commitments by the religious order.

"The retirement of Father Ruhl from his ministry as pastor and our inability to replace him requires us to make the hard decision to end an 18-year relationship with the people of St. Paul the Apostle," said Father Greenfield.

"Even as we look forward to a continued presence in the Diocese of Charlotte, we will miss sharing our Salesian spirituality with the people of Greensboro," he said.

Father Ruhl is scheduled to leave the parish in early July 2009. A diocesan priest will be appointed as pastor.

"I thank the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales for their faithful service to the people of St. Paul the Apostle Parish," said Bishop Jugis.

"The dedication of the Oblates and of the many other religious order priests who serve in our diocese ensures that we can continue to bring the light of Christ to our growing Catholic communities," he said.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales is

a religious order of priests and brothers who serve to connect the Gospel with the lives of people in the gentle and humble example of their patron, St. Francis de Sales. The Wilmington-Philadelphia province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales serves in parishes, schools and other ministries from Boston to Southwest Florida.

A brief history of St. Paul the Apostle Church

The Catholic community of St. Paul the Apostle Church was founded in July 1974, when then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte invited the Paulist Fathers to create the fifth parish in Guilford County.

While the Paulists ministered to the ever-growing parish, they also served in campus ministry to Catholic students attending Guilford College, Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This ministry developed into the Catholic Student Fellowship.

The Paulist Fathers served until 1991, when the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales assumed pastoral leadership of the parish and Oblate Father James O'Neill was appointed pastor.

At that time the parish was composed of almost 1,000 families, and Father O'Neill immediately began plans to enlarge the church facilities. By 1998, the parish had grown to about 1,900 households with more than 5,500 people.

Father O'Neill served until April 2002. Oblate Father Tom Murphy, who came with Father O'Neill in 1991 as parochial vicar, returned in April 2002 as pastor.

Oblate Father William Ruhl assumed the pastorate of St. Paul the Apostle Church in July 2004.

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Tues., May 5 - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 22nd

Wed., May 20 - St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden
9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Closing Mass with Fr. Adrian Porras
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Convert recalls journey from Judaism to Catholicism

CONVERT, from page 1

he began preparation for his Bar Mitzvah at the age of 13 that he was really introduced to his Jewish faith.

At that time, he met regularly with a rabbi to learn how to cantor the readings.

"I didn't really know much about Christianity," he said.

"I had heard the name Jesus," Reiser said, but it was in a historical context.

"I learned to ski on the Sea of Galilee," said Reiser, who at the time was unaware of the significance of the place where Jesus had walked on water.

Jesus was "some person in history," he said, "maybe a prophet who roamed around the land where I was living."

In 1965, Reiser moved with his family to New York. The town where they lived was 50 percent Jewish and 50 percent Catholic.

"My curiosity started perking a little bit," Reiser said.

In 1968, Reiser enrolled in St. Louis University, a Jesuit school. It was around that same time that he began attending a Baptist church.

"I just started listening," said Reiser, who began researching Christianity and reading the prophets.

Then on Palm Sunday 1977, "it just came to me," he said. "Jesus was the Messiah."

Soon after that, Reiser was baptized at that Baptist church.

A test of faith

In 1978, Reiser embarked on a career as an FBI agent. His first assignment was in Minneapolis, Minn.

There he joined another Baptist church, but this time he "started following the preacher instead of God."

During an undercover investigation of a false accreditation and diploma manufacturing ring, Reiser discovered that the preacher he had been following was a fraud.

"That really turned me off," he said. "I basically fell away for quite a while."

Then he was transferred to Puerto Rico, where he met his future wife — a Catholic.

Coming home

While attending Mass one Sunday with Maria, his wife-to-be, Reiser was surprised by the familiarity of the Catholic liturgy.

"Once I paid attention to the Mass, I felt right at home," he said. "It brought me back to my Jewish traditions."

From Puerto Rico, Reiser was transferred to Charlotte, where he began attending Mass with his wife at St. Patrick Cathedral.

After attending Mass on a regular basis, Reiser was approached by a friend who asked if he would be interested in learning more about the Catholic Church.

"I started coming to inquiry classes," said Reiser, referring to the non-committal precursor to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program.

The period of inquiry provided Reiser with an opportunity to ask questions and see if he was really interested in joining the church.

He enrolled formally in RCIA at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte and converted to Catholicism in 1993 on the feast of the Assumption.

"I've been active ever since," Reiser said.

A bumpy road

Reiser's choice to convert to Catholicism was met with opposition from his family. His mother, who came from a traditional Jewish background and lost her parents in the Holocaust, was especially unhappy with his decision.

"I had to take a very delicate route with her," Reiser admitted.

Even now, he said, "religion is kind of off limits."

Three years ago, Reiser's younger brother converted to Catholicism.

Reiser assumed it was the influence of friends but came to find out that it was his own faith journey that led his brother to the church.

"He saw something there in me that made him follow the path," Reiser said.

A continuing journey

After working in Charlotte for a few years, Reiser was transferred back to Puerto Rico, where he and Maria became very active in their local parish.

"We really had a great community there," he said.

From there he was transferred to FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they stayed until he retired in 2003.

After that, the Reisers moved back to Charlotte, where they settled at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

"Assumption has always been home," Reiser said.

In recent years, Reiser has felt a calling to do God's work.



COURTESY PHOTO

David Reiser is pictured with Maria, his wife, and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta during Mother Teresa's visit to Charlotte in 1995. Reiser, who converted from Judaism to Catholicism, is currently the faith formation coordinator at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte.

When the position of faith formation coordinator became vacant at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Reiser approached Father Philip Scarcella, pastor, and asked for the position.

"I said, 'I don't know anything about faith formation, but I'll give it a try if you're willing to trust me,'" Reiser said.

Father Scarcella took him up on the offer and Reiser has held the position ever since. When he became coordinator just three years ago, there were 175 children in the program.

Today enrollment is up to 600 students and classes are offered in both English and Spanish.

"I like it," he said. "I enjoy the kids and I enjoy the families."

Inspiration

One of the greatest religious influences for Reiser was an up-close encounter with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta during her visit to Charlotte in 1995.

"I got a call one day at home, asking me if I wanted to be on the security detail for Mother Teresa," Reiser said.

When the security team picked her up from the airport to take her to the Charlotte Coliseum where she was to make an appearance, Reiser said he really didn't know what to expect.

When they arrived, "the place was packed. I was in awe," he said.

The next day, Reiser and his wife were invited to a private Mass with Mother Teresa at the newly-established convent of the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte.

Right after Mass, "she came up to us and wanted to talk to us alone," Reiser said. "She was so warm and so loving."

"She's been a great influence on us, there is no doubt about that," he said.

Still learning

Reiser is currently enrolled in the permanent diaconate program and scheduled to be ordained as a deacon for the Diocese of Charlotte in 2011.

He is continuing on his faith journey, but he hasn't forgotten about his Jewish roots.

One of the things he said he likes most about the Catholic faith is "the whole order of the Mass."

"The Mass itself is the recreation of the Passover," he said.

On March 17, Reiser will give a talk at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, comparing Passover to the Mass.

"Jesus was Jewish, Mary was Jewish," said Reiser.

"I'm still Jewish," he added, but "you might say I'm a completed Jew; I recognize Jesus as the Messiah."

"Generally, I am in awe whenever I encounter someone who converts to the Catholic Church," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"In awe because I know that what has happened is the work of God," said Villapando. "But when someone converts from Judaism to Christianity, as in the case of David, I am even more in awe because I know that for more than 2,000 years, the Jewish people have always believed themselves to be the chosen people."

"Thus David's decision to become Catholic presents a unique faith journey demonstrating that in no way does his conversion contradict God's election. Rather, it demonstrates in its fullness what it means to be a chosen people today," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



Faith Formation is partly funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 1 through March 8.

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Cross International Catholic Outreach Expands into Central, South America to Serve the Poor

On hot days, a cool breeze is a mixed blessing for the staff of Potter's House in Guatemala. The reason? Within a stone's throw of the organization's office is a massive public dump, reeking of rotting garbage and teeming with insects and disease. On hot afternoons — and there are many — the pungent odors carried in by a breeze can be overwhelming, literally enough to take your breath away.

Why would anyone locate their staff so close to such a terrible place?

"Jesus brought his mercy to the poorest of the poor, and he was willing to go wherever that took him. Potter's House is doing the same. There are nearly ten thousand people scavenging on this dump. Many are even forced to live in makeshift shacks in and around the garbage. Potter's House and its staff located here for a simple but profound reason — because they've come to serve with five different ministries for local families, including a feeding program and educational outreach. They've come to be the face of Christ to these people in desperate need," explains Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, a major U.S.-based relief organization which recently expanded its global outreach into several Central American and South American countries. "When we American Catholics support organizations like this, we do our small part to keep Christ's Gospel of mercy alive in a desperate place. We help create a light in the darkness."

While visiting the ecumenical ministry, Cavnar sees that light produce a spark of hope. He meets Lorena, a woman with four children who is now on a better path. Lorena had been scavenging the dump from age 14, and she had every expectation that her life and the lives of her children would end here.

"My daily prayer had always been, 'God, help me to find enough to feed my family today,'" she explains. "On a good day, I would scavenge enough glass and plastic to make a few dollars. Then, we could eat again."

Now, with help from Potter's House, Lorena is receiving an education — an opportunity she never thought would be available to her. Her

spirit is renewed, and she can now envision a day when she and her children will be able to leave this place, never to work on the dump again.

"Giving people this kind of opportunity to succeed in life is a privilege. At Cross International Catholic Outreach, we try to encourage American Catholics to see themselves as a tool in God's hands to bring about this kind of transformation. Working together — American Catholics and parish ministries overseas — we can have a huge impact in countries like Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Peru," Cavnar says. "That's why we are here and why we are committed to staying. We have a gift of

We in America have a special calling to be the 'good Samaritan'

James Cavnar, President of Cross

hope to offer these people, and we believe it's a blessing to both the poor and to the American Catholics who support the outreach."

In Nicaragua, where the poor struggle with similar burdens, Cross International Catholic Outreach has already identified several Catholic organizations with effective programs in need of support: Our Little Brothers & Sisters orphanage, the Father Fabretto Center, Casa Alianza and the Christ the Healer Orphanage.

"Like Potter's House, Casa Alianza is another light in the darkness. It is a home for runaway children — many the victims of sexual exploitation. In addition to providing food and shelter for the children, they also want to provide medical care, spiritual guidance and counseling," Cavnar explains. "It's a profoundly moving experience to visit here. When you look into the faces of the children, you see their gratitude and you understand how critical it is for them to have this safe haven. You realize that this intervention is nothing less than a life-and-death rescue, because without this opportunity, these children would have faced a terrible fate."

After discussing the needs at Casa Alianza



© Photo Courtesy Potter's House

Entire families "work the dump" and most live in or near the site in patchwork shacks.

with the program's Catholic directors, Cross commits funds for the medical care and feeding of the children. The ministry is deeply grateful for the support which will lift a major financial burden and allow the staff to further expand its services to the children.

"This is just one example of the hundreds of outreaches we hope to assist throughout Central and South America in the years ahead," Cavnar says. "And I'm confident we will have the support of Catholics throughout the U.S. as we move forward with this expansion. Like me, I'm sure they realize that the needs in this part of the world exemplify Christ's admonition: love your neighbor. They understand that we in America have a special calling to be the 'good Samaritan' to this part of the world — an area so close to our shores."

And, in the end, this Biblical call to love is what directs Cross International Catholic Outreach and its recent expansion, Cavnar says.

"Yes — above all else, we are drawn here by the love of God. We see the parish missions serving the poor as our brothers and sisters, worthy of our support. We see the suffering children and parents as our Catholic family, tied to us by both the faith they practice and by the mysterious bonds that bind all Christians together in an eternal destiny with our Lord. As the Apostle Paul said: *these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* He knew that in heaven before God, our faith will no longer be necessary and our hope will be fulfilled, but our love — the love we have shown to those in need here on earth — will live on with us in eternity."

Readers interested in supporting Cross International Catholic Outreach, can use the brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00538, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

Cross Recognized, Endorsed by U.S. Catholic Bishops

As Cross International Catholic Outreach has continued to extend the range of its relief work to help the poor overseas, a growing number of Catholic bishops in the United States are taking notice and commending the organization for its efforts.

"We've had many endorsement letters come in the last year or so, and our staff is encouraged by the kind words and well wishes these bishops have shared," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "It motivates us to want to push harder and do even more."

Most Reverend Gerald Barbarito shared: "Seeing Christ in the poor and extending assistance in His name is the very core of what we are about as Church. You are to be commended."

Most Reverend Timothy Dolan was equally enthusiastic, saying: "I am pleased to wholeheartedly endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach. It is my hope that the clergy will familiarize themselves with Cross and its outreach and share Cross' message with their parishioners."

Most Reverend Tod Brown has a similar position, explaining: "As a universal Church, it is our duty to become aware of and support the missionary works of the church. I heartily endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach, its worthwhile mission and its dedicated preachers."

Most Reverend Curtis Gillory, singled out the ministry's good stewardship of funds, saying: "I realize the great assistance that Cross International Catholic Outreach provides for the poor at a very cost effective rate. I want to be supportive of Cross in whatever way we are able to do so."

Cavnar is inspired by these endorsements and the notes of encouragement coming in from other U.S. bishops, but he feels the praise should really be aimed at the thousands of American Catholics who contribute to Cross and make the ministry's work possible.

"None of what we do would be possible without the donations we receive from the men, women and children in parishes from across this country. Those gifts, large or small,



His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler at a recent meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Keeler is now the official patron of Cross International Catholic Outreach.

are what give us the financial power to send the food, dig the wells for water, build the houses, deliver the medicines, open the schools — everything," Cavnar said. "I say,

God bless those benefactors. God bless their generosity and their willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others. Their commitment to helping the poor has made all of this possible."

American Catholics Are "Catalysts of Change" Overseas, Bringing Long-Term Blessings to Impoverished Families

He usually tries to be up and out on the road at least an hour before the sun rises. For Carlos, starting early means reaching the dump before any of the morning garbage trucks have arrived. As a scout, it's his job to locate and follow the huge lumbering vehicles to their drop off point, assessing the value of their loads and running home to get his parents and siblings if the loads they carry look promising. Gleaning salvageable food, plastics and other useful discards from the dump are critical to his family's daily survival. And because Carlos doesn't have the opportunity to attend school, these scavenging expeditions may soon become the twelve-year-old's only way of life — a future he will eventually be forced to pass on to his own children.

* * *

Priscilla is more fortunate than many of the women in rural Kenya. Through various odd jobs, she is able to help her husband sustain the family and keep their daughter fed. She also has a modest education and a limited ability to read. These "blessings from God" give her greater hope that her own daughter will have even better opportunities — that the next generation will break free from the bondage of poverty that has plagued her family for generations. But these dreams have a cost, and she must find a way to pay school fees and purchase supplies to achieve her ambitious goal. At this point, she's unsure how to stretch their budget any further without sacrificing daily meals which would threaten her child's health.

* * *

From all outward appearances, 74-year-old Evelyn is the prototypical grandmother. Her deeply lined face is full of quiet grace, and she exudes a spirit brimming with warmth and hospitality. It's hard to accept the fact that she is also one of Guyana's better tarantula hunters. Wearing pants and a long-sleeve shirt in the 90-degree heat because "you get bit a lot less," she collects the huge, hairy spiders for sale to those who use them for manufacturing anti-venom or as pets — *earning just 10 cents per insect*. The best hunting area, she says, is in the deep jungle about a two-hour walk beyond her village. It's hard work, but her survival and the futures of her precious grand-children depend on it. The little bit of money she collects allows her to buy their "daily bread."

"People who believe that the poor in developing countries lack initiative and are unwilling to work are either closing their eyes to the truth or they're just rationalizing reality away in order to soothe their own conscience. I've been to all of these areas myself and I've seen what life is like. Poverty isn't the choice of the lazy. It's the result of being born into difficult circumstances — into areas where people live under a crushing burden of poverty and opportunities for improvement are few and far between," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, a relief and development ministry active in nearly 25 countries around the globe. "What these critical people need to ask themselves is, 'why was I blessed by God to be born in a country like America?' They should be realizing, 'there but by the grace of God go I. This poor, struggling soul could just as easily have been me.'"

This perspective and its recognition of the hardships found in developing countries were instrumental in rethinking his own views, Cavnar said, and it was one of the things that motivated him to help launch Cross International Catholic Outreach more than five years ago.

"There were several of us who, when we became more aware of the severe poverty overseas, felt compelled to do something to help alleviate the suffering and to provide greater opportunities for the poor," he explained. "We realized that what these people needed was support from the Church and a helping hand to get them started toward a better life. By assisting individual parishes that wanted to develop self-help programs for the people in the slums, we realized we could have an impact that would last. We could support the Church and create long-term, lasting change in the lives of poor families."

In the years since its founding, Cross International Catholic Outreach has created a very effective "self help" program. And because Cross works in partnership with parishes and Catholic ministries already established within impoverished communities, their approach is extremely efficient, making use of existing parish staff members and volunteers so that more of each donated dollar can be used to help the families in need.

"Our method is also very flexible — always allowing the priests, nuns or Catholic leaders who work among the poor to do what is best for their people in a given area at a given time. For example, in one case, a nun wanted to help families leave a dangerous dump where they were scavenging, so we helped her fund a pig-raising project that allowed these people to create a small livestock business and to relocate out of the dump," Cavnar explained. "It was a big success and a huge blessing for the families who were helped."

In the case of Priscilla, the mother from Kenya who dreamed of educating her daughter, help came in the form of a "micro-enterprise loan" — a financial grant given to help a family start a small business. In Priscilla's case, the loan was used to buy dairy goats which are now giving her family undreamed of financial stability. The future is now brighter for her child too. Priscilla should be able to keep her daughter in school and meet all of her other basic needs.

"These and other outreaches to the poor are only possible because American Catholics support Cross International Catholic Outreach. They effectively funded the nun's pig-raising project and allowed us to help Priscilla with a small loan," Cavnar said. "In that way, American



Will he grow up as a dump scavenger? American Catholics say "no!" — and offer hope.

Catholics are becoming an important catalyst of change around the globe, impacting hundreds — if not thousands — of lives. Their gifts have helped Cross put into practice the adage: feed a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime.

"Now, families who once lived in constant fear, struggling in survival mode, are forever changed," he added. "They've been given the helping hand they needed... and many are already giving back to their communities, either by volunteering or by sharing the resources they have gained. It's a remarkable testimony to the value of investing in people for the glory of God."

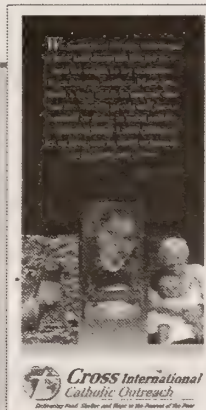
Another amazing thing about this approach is that it costs very little to have an impact — to be, as Cavnar calls it, "a catalyst of change." A few dollars worth of seed can start of a family farm. A pen and a few chickens or rabbits can launch a livestock project. Even

the "micro-loans" are typically only a few hundred dollars at most, and those are paid back allowing others in the community to gain the same advantage.

"A man might obtain one of these loans to obtain a bicycle with a sidecar which can be used to transport people for a small fee. Or a woman may buy a small stock of food and household items to sell in a makeshift market stall. Or a couple may buy some fabric and a peddle-power sewing machine to set up a small tailor shop in their home. None of these ideas require a major investment to get up and running, but they yield a living wage to the families who are helped," Cavnar said. "What better gift could a compassionate donor make? With a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$250, you can have a lasting, life-changing impact. And the process is also one that maintains the dignity of the family being helped."

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00538, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis speaks with John Gouldie, N.C. state deputy of the N.C. Knights of Columbus, after a news conference in support of a marriage amendment to the N.C. constitution Feb. 24. Also pictured are (from left) Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge and Msgr. Michael Clay, political liaison for the two dioceses.

N.C. bishops join in call for constitutional amendment

MARRIAGE, from page 1

state constitution to define marriage as the union only of a man and woman, it would prohibit other types of unions that imitate marriage, such as civil unions or domestic partnerships.

It also would prohibit legal recognition of same-sex unions performed in other states.

Supporters say North Carolina is the only state south of Washington, D.C., and east of New Mexico without such an amendment.

A rally in support of the amendment is scheduled to take place in Raleigh March 3.

"Throughout the entirety of sacred Scripture, marriage is always and only recognized as a union between a man and a woman."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

During the news conference, Bishop Jugis read a statement on behalf of both bishops in support of the proposed amendment. The statement addressed "the theological basis for upholding the traditional understanding of marriage in North Carolina."

"Throughout the entirety of sacred Scripture, marriage is always and only recognized as a union between a man and a woman," said Bishop Jugis. "We believe this understanding of marriage is the only one that should constitutionally exist in our state."

The statement also addressed the issue of homosexual attraction.

"We wish to affirm our church's belief that men and women with a homosexual attraction are children of God possessed of human dignity because they too are created in God's image," said Bishop Jugis.

"Protecting the traditional understanding of marriage is not intended to disparage our brothers and sisters with a homosexual attraction," said the bishop. "Rather, it is intended to affirm a divinely-ordered reality that cannot be changed because it comes from God."

According to the North Carolina constitution, the legislature first must authorize a proposed amendment before it is placed before the citizens of North Carolina for a vote.

Since 2004, bills have been introduced in the state's General Assembly to protect marriage by placing an amendment on the constitution that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. To date, they have been blocked for debate by legislative leaders who claim no amendment is needed because marriage is already limited by state law.

If the recently-introduced bill passes in Raleigh, it would go to voters in November.

Bishops Jugis and Burbidge called on the Catholics of their dioceses, and all who embrace traditional marriage, to join in support of the proposed amendment by contacting their legislators and asking them to help bring it to a vote.



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WANT MORE INFO?

A rally to support the amendment is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, at 11 a.m. at the Halifax Mall, 16 W. Jones St., in Raleigh. Details, including a map, are available at www.catholicvoicenc.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

A historical study of Pius XII achieves balance despite some weaknesses

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



Since disaffected Catholic journalist John Cornwell published his high-rhetoric, low-research attack on Pope Pius XII, "Hitler's Pope," in 1999, some 20 books, pro and con, have been published on the subject of the pope and the Holocaust.

Only a few of these volumes can be said to be balanced accounts written for the educated lay reader. "A Cross Too Heavy," Paul O'Shea's solid historical study, in the main, falls in that category, though it has its weaknesses.

O'Shea sets Eugenio Pacelli, the man, the diplomat and the pope, within the context of the times that produced him and the time of great evil, World War II, in which he began his papacy.

The former, O'Shea shows, did not equip him well for the latter, though virtually no one, including U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, was able to rise above that tumultuous, insanely violent and almost infinitely complex time to understand fully what was happening to the Jews, much less devise a way to stop it.

One of O'Shea's weaknesses, from this reviewer's point of view, is his presumption that Pope Pius could and should have been able to do both.

But the book's strengths are what should guide the reader to this book, though, again, without accepting uncritically the author's rather negative judgments on Pope Pius.

O'Shea quite rightly eschews the "black-and-white" approach of Cornwell and Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, striving to do justice to the complexity of the central questions — whether the pope did all he could and whether, if he had done more, it would have made a difference.

To his credit O'Shea affirms the many things Pope Pius did to help the Jews and to encourage others to help them, while maintaining the public posture of neutrality that allowed Catholics to work to save Jews.

O'Shea rightly notes that Pope Pius' decision to allow Catholics to determine how they could best help Jews, since they would have to live with the consequences if the Nazis found out,

is understandable.

He feels, though, that a more forceful, less diplomatic statement at a crucial time, which he determines to be in the autumn of 1943, would have encouraged many more Catholics to risk their lives for their neighbors. Readers can make up their own minds on this.

The most serious flaw in this book is the author's decision to cut off his considerations in 1943, with the roundup for deportation of more than 1,000 of the Jews of Rome.

Scholars debate the intent and impact of the warning to the Germans by Cardinal Luigi Maglione, Vatican secretary of state, that the pope would not want to have to go public denouncing the roundup.

The Germans took this, O'Shea himself records, as a threat, and stopped the roundups immediately, with the result that the large majority of Rome's Jews were saved.

O'Shea feels the pope should have gone public even though he had stopped the deportations and provided for the Jews of Rome to hide (and so survive) in the church's convents and monasteries.

He does not seem to be aware that food was brought to the sites hiding Jews by trucks owned and operated by the Holy See.

By arbitrarily stopping his study so long before the end of the war, O'Shea is not able to take into account significant deeds such as the saving of tens of thousands of lives quite directly by the papal nuncios in, for example, Budapest and Istanbul.

While we still await a definitive and fully balanced study of Pope Pius and the Jews, this book is at least a worthy beginning toward that end.

Fisher is a retired associate director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 8, 2007

March 8, Second
Sunday of Lent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15-19
- 2) Romans 8:31b-34
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Trust in God leads to better, lasting life

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The boy — we'll call him Jon — was 12, the second son in a large, impoverished family trying to survive in a war-torn city. The family seemed to have only a pinpoint of possibility for a better life, and that would be to escape the situation.

Get to the United States where there was at least a glimmer of hope.

Jon didn't know how, but his father managed to scrape together documents and enough money to get one family member out of the country. And Jon was it.

His older brother was needed to help provide for the rest of the family at home, while Jon, then on the brink of manhood, was smart, strong and had much promise.

A group of families from their

village planned the journey across the ocean, and Jon would travel with them, his father told him. "I didn't want to go. I didn't want to leave my family, and I didn't know any of the people in the group," Jon recalled later.

On the day of departure he hung back, sad and afraid. "But my father said, 'You have to go. You are our only hope for a better life.'"

Jon went. The trip was long, hard and lonely, and when he arrived in the United States, he was met by distant relatives with whom he would live. He went to school and worked with great industriousness and managed to grow up, mostly on his own.

As he became self-sufficient he sent money to his family and after many years was able to bring most of his siblings to this country. Now, two short generations later, the family is increasing and thriving as a significant contributor to its American community.

Jon's father's hope was indeed realized. Like Abraham in this Lenten weekend's first reading, Jon's father put complete trust in God, even giving up his own son, believing God would provide something greater for generations to come.

For a loving father to sacrifice a child calls for such infinite trust.

In the transfiguration of the Gospel our loving God offers us that glimmer of "a better life" and calls us to trust him.

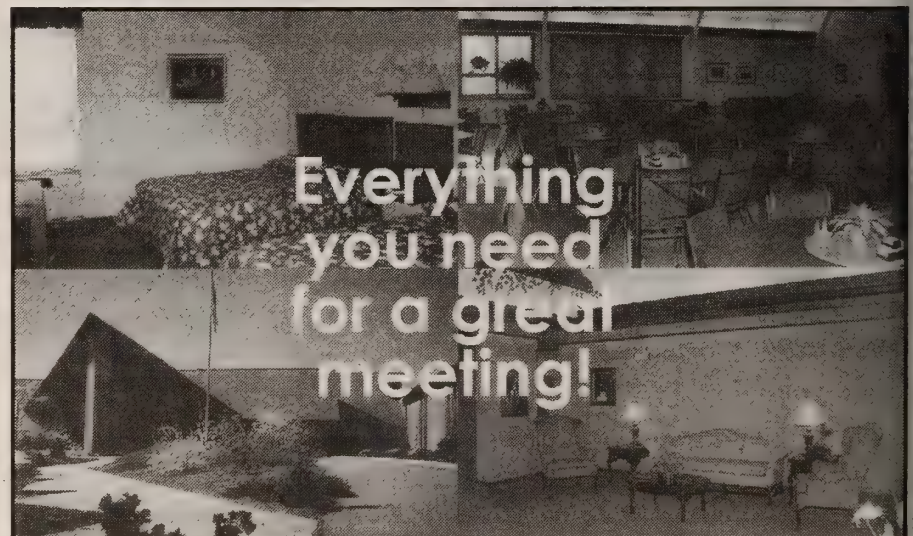
WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1-7

Sunday (First Sunday of Lent), Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-19, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (St. Katherine Drexel)**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (St. Casimir)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity)**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8-14

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10; **Monday (St. Frances)**, Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-34, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.



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Vatican joins protest over Israeli TV show's satire of Christianity

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican protested what it called a “blasphemous” satire of Christianity on an Israeli TV network.

The late-night program broadcast in mid-February included joking suggestions that Mary was impregnated by a school friend at the age of 15 and that Jesus died at a young age because he was fat.

A Vatican statement Feb. 20 said the program had “ridiculed — with blasphemous words and images — the Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.” It expressed support for Christians and Catholic leaders in the Holy Land who had denounced the broadcast.

“Such a vulgar and offensive act of intolerance toward the religious sentiments of believers in Christ must be deplored,” the Vatican statement said.

It noted that the religious figures satirized, Jesus and Mary, were themselves “children of Israel.”

The Vatican said its nuncio in Jerusalem, Archbishop Antonio Franco, had received assurances from the Israeli government that it would take steps to prevent such programs in the future and

would try to obtain a public apology from the television network.

In an earlier statement, the Assembly of the Catholic Bishops of the Holy Land condemned the segments, calling them “horrible offenses” and asking the authorities to investigate the incident and “take the necessary actions in order to put an end to such horrible desecration of our faith.”

The bishops said the segments were a symptom of problems plaguing Israeli society such as intolerance, lack of respect and inherent hatred.

“It is unconceivable that such incidents have to occur in Israel, which hosts some of the holiest shrines of Christianity and which relies to a great extent on pilgrimage from Christian countries,” they said. “Such programs have nothing to do with freedom of expression, art and entertainment. They can only work against national integration and harmony in our society.”

A group of Christian lawyers began an online petition urging Pope Benedict XVI not to visit the Holy Land in May.

“The pope should not come to a nation which does not respect Christianity,” said Salim Kubti, a lawyer and chairman of an umbrella organization representing Christian courts.

Lior Shlein, host of the TV show, said the segments were in retaliation for the statements by ultratraditionalist Bishop Richard Williamson of the Society of St. Pius X and other Christian clerics denying the Holocaust.

“If they deny the Holocaust, we will deny Christianity,” Shlein said in a preface to the first segment that depicted Jesus as an obese man who could not have walked on water.

The second segment described Mary as a promiscuous teenager and showed an extremely pregnant woman in pink underwear patting her exposed belly.

The only Christian member of the Israeli parliament, Hana Sweid, then filed a complaint with the legal adviser of the government, charging Shlein with violating an Israeli law that prohibits offending religious sensibilities. Shlein apologized on his Feb. 18 program.

Kubti said the apology was not sufficient and lawyers were waiting to see the reaction to Sweid’s complaint before deciding on their next step. He said they had been approached privately by the television station and Shlein regarding compensation and were negotiating for an educational program or series about Christianity, Islam and Judaism to be aired to promote religious tolerance.

Contributing to this story was Judith Sudilovsky in Jerusalem.

Discover Vatican ‘secrets’ on PBS

NEW YORK (CNS) — Though geographically the world’s smallest independent city-state — with an area of only 110 acres — Vatican City exerts a spiritual, moral and geopolitical influence far beyond its Lilliputian proportions.

A comprehensive look at this long-established headquarters of the papacy is provided by Polish filmmakers Pawel Pitera and Krzysztof Talczewski’s handsome hourlong documentary, “Discovering Secrets of the Vatican,” distributed by PBS affiliate WTVS in Detroit and airing on PBS stations throughout the network’s March pledge drive (check local listings).

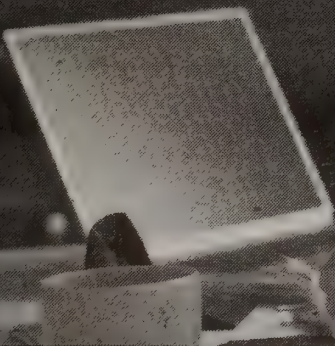
The special ventures to some of the territory’s less frequented areas, such as the 800-year-old Vatican Gardens and the papal printing house, and offers lush images of such highly trafficked sites as St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. Most interestingly, the program also profiles the day-to-day, behind-the-scenes work of the Vatican’s broadcasters, postal officials and tapestry and art restorers.

The discovery of St. Peter’s tomb — an extraordinary vindication of church tradition that resulted from secret excavations under the basilica begun in 1939 — is chronicled in detail here, as is the colorful history of the Swiss Guard, the papal equivalent of the U.S. Secret Service and the oldest military unit in the world.

Church officials interviewed include U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, formerly archbishop of Detroit and more recently head of the Vatican City’s government administration; French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; and Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, retired prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

A greatly expanded version of the program will be released on a five-DVD set in April. That set includes an interview with Father Michael Collins, author of the recently published tie-in book, “The Vatican: Secrets and Treasures of the Holy City.”

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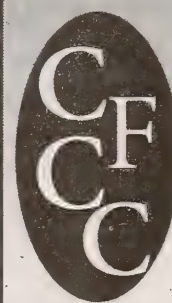
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Spiritual exercises foster sanctity at retreat

SILENCE, from page 1

grow in holiness, prayer, virtue and communion with Christ," said Father Patrick Wainwright, a member of Miles Christi.

"You could see that many of the women got to know more about Christ through speaking with him one on one in the Eucharist," he said.

Father Wainwright led the retreat along with Father Richard Castro-Huergo of Miles Christi, a religious order of priests and brothers founded in Argentina in 1984 for the sanctification of the laity, particularly of college students, for the greater glory of God.

The women in attendance were age 16 and older from North Carolina and Virginia.

The retreats are held annually for women in February and for men in June at the Catholic Conference Center.

"A silent retreat is an unusual thing to find, and many might not be sure what to expect," said Father Wainwright. "However, the retreat is guided from the beginning."

Though participants do not speak to one another, there are talks, Mass, eucharistic adoration, time for meditation and spiritual direction with one of the priests.

He said that many people come to the retreats because of the silence that allows for conversation with God.

"Normally, the common trend is

that when people come once, they want to come again," Father Wainwright explained.

"We recommend an annual retreat as a spiritual boost to help you persevere year after year. Although we know the Gospel stories, we still need to listen again and to contemplate their meaning in order to live more perfectly," he said.

"The spiritual exercises help everyone in every state in life to increase in faith, virtue ... in a word holiness," said Father Wainwright.

"For young people, the retreat gives a solid foundation to make a good decision for a state in life. It has helped many young people to see God's will and allows men and women to answer God's call" to a religious or priestly vocation, he said.

Miles Christi emphasizes unity within the church and communion with the pope and the bishops of the dioceses they visit around the country and world.

"Bishop (Peter J.) Jugis is very happy with these retreats," Father Wainwright said, regarding a recent meeting with him.

"I spoke to him and he is happy that we are helping the diocese by preaching the spiritual exercises," he said.

Correspondent Mary B. Worthington can be contacted at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Miles Christi, visit www.mileschristi.org.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE and COORDINATOR OF LITURGY AND ADULT FORMATION

St. Andrew's Parish, an active Catholic faith community of 1700 households in Roanoke, Virginia, is seeking two full-time ministers to join our collaborative staff:

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- a coordinator of liturgy and adult formation who would resource the parish liturgical ministers and oversee opportunities for adult catechesis and evangelization, requiring knowledge and skill in both areas.

Full job descriptions are available by sending a resume' to Kathy McDaniel at St. Andrew's, 631 N Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA 24016 or email: kmcdaniel@standrewsroanoke.org.

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email lbolchoz@sc.rr.com by March 27, 2009.

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The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville has an immediate opening for a bilingual Regional Counseling Supervisor. This is a bilingual position requiring fluency in Spanish. Previous experience in a Spanish-only therapeutic setting is required. A LCSW licensure is required and three years of post-graduate counseling experience. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This position requires regular travel to Yancey and Burke counties.

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Application must be received no later than **March 9, 2009**.

Study shows affordability of 'most faithful' Catholic colleges

Belmont Abbey College listed among 22 'economical' schools

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

BELMONT — A new independent report on college costs revealed that some of the "most faithful" U.S. Catholic colleges and universities also offer students significant cost savings.

The study released this month by the Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education, the research division of the Cardinal Newman Society, confirmed that the Catholic colleges and universities the society recommends in its "The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College" are generally more affordable than other Catholic or all private four-year colleges and universities.

The cost of a degree at the 22 schools in "The Newman Guide" was determined to be an average of \$3,000 less than at other Catholic colleges and about \$1,000 less than the cost of the average private college.

The list included one school located within the Diocese of Charlotte — Belmont Abbey College.

"The Catholic colleges profiled in 'The Newman Guide' were chosen for their quality education and for the priority

that they place on Catholic identity in all aspects of campus life," said Joseph Esposito, editor of "The Newman Guide" and director of the center.

"In that sense, we have always believed that the recommended colleges were 'best buys' for families based on fidelity to Catholic teachings, but with the publication of this affordability study we now know that they are also truly economic 'best buys' too," he said.

The study, "College Affordability and Catholic Identity," was released in order to assist parents with college decisions during financially uncertain times.

"This study is welcome news to families sacrificing to find ways to pay for meaningful Catholic college educations for their sons and daughters," said Patrick Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society.

Other key findings of the study included:

- Colleges recommended by "The Newman Guide" provide students a larger portion of institutional aid (39 percent) than the average private college (29 percent).
- Students at the recommended

Catholic colleges graduate with fewer loans and less debt — on average, about \$2,000 less than at private colleges and \$1,400 less than other Catholic colleges.

"We often tell students and their parents that Belmont Abbey College offers them rock-solid Catholic values," said Ed Jones, marketing director of Belmont Abbey College.

"This study by the Cardinal Newman Society empirically proves that we do that in more ways than one," he said.

"Hopefully this news ... will help families in the Carolinas and beyond discover a college that has been a 'best-kept secret' in Catholic higher education for too long," he added.

In "The Newman Guide," the following was said of Belmont Abbey College and its president, Dr. William Thierfelder:

"Dr. Thierfelder ... has established his priorities as strengthening the college's Catholic identity, emphasizing its academic credentials and promoting athletic opportunities.

"Some of these enhancements are embodied in one of the more impressive strategic plans that we have seen in our research on Catholic colleges.

"It has three components: Catholic and Benedictine goals, liberal arts programs and efforts to improve overall 'excellence and virtue.'"

Founded in 1993, the Cardinal Newman Society is dedicated to renewing and strengthening Catholic identity at America's 224 Catholic colleges and universities according to Pope John Paul II's document "Ex Cordia Ecclesiae"



COURTESY PHOTO BY BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE.

Benedictine Father Arthur Pendleton speaks with Jessica Inman, a 2008 graduate of Belmont Abbey College, in this April 2008 photo taken on campus. The college was listed in "The Newman Guide" for its fidelity to Catholic Church teachings and its economic affordability.

("From the Heart of the Church"), an apostolic constitution on Catholic higher education.

Correspondent Mary B. Worthington can be contacted at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

WANT MORE INFO?

The full text of "The Newman Guide" is available at www.catholichighered.org.

MARCH 7: FATHER DWIGHT LONGENECKER AND "SHROUD OF TURIN" EXPERT KEVIN E. MORAN LEAD A LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION



Come "prepare the way of the Lord" in your heart with our very special Lenten Day of Reflection, beginning at 9:45 a.m. on March 7th in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College.

Our reflection leaders will be renowned author and chaplain Father Dwight Longenecker, who will be speaking in the morning (9:45-10:45 a.m.), and then "Shroud of Turin" expert Kevin Moran will be making a very special presentation on the Shroud in the afternoon (1:30 to 2:30 p.m.). In between, you are warmly invited to join us at Mass in the Abbey Basilica (beginning at 11 a.m.) and for lunch.

Father Longenecker's talk will be derived from his acclaimed book "St. Benedict and St. Therese - A Little Way Through Lent." The book reflects on the lives and teachings of these two great saints, which complement one another in surprising and beautiful ways. It compares them to a father and daughter in the family of faith and points the way for their wisdom to change our lives.

Kevin Moran's topic is "The Holy Shroud: The Evidence of Our Salvation." He will also be discussing in detail the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

Admission is just \$25 per person. A copy of a profoundly moving new booklet written by Dr. Ron Thomas, Assistant Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College, entitled "Meditations on the Stations of the Cross," plus a sit-down lunch are included in the price. Our seating capacity is limited, so please register online to reserve your seat here:

alumni.belmontabbeycollege.edu/LentenDayOfReflection

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Why the rosary is the perfect prayer

Mysteries help us understand, grow with Christ, Mary

A neighbor went to a garage sale, bought a box of kitchen items and found in the box a rosary, clearly handmade. She's not Catholic, so she brought it to me, having seen so many rosaries in my family room.

Then I told her about my rosaries. Most were handmade by the grandkids of my adopted son Sterling, now deceased, and his beautiful wife Bernadette.

Sterling never saw a rosary until as a young teen in 1950 he came to live with me, his new mother.

In a way, the rosary never left Sterling's hands. He and Bernie, devout Catholics, parents of seven and grandparents of 15, never went to bed without praying the rosary. Bernie taught several of their grandchildren to make the rosaries I have.

My devotion to the rosary took root when I was a student at the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y., in the late 1940s. My classmates and I were greatly influenced by a marvelous priest in residence at our college, Father Patrick Peyton of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

He was well-known then as the "rosary priest," and he strongly communicated his love for the rosary to us in his Irish brogue. We especially liked to hear about the movie stars he had inspired to say the rosary!

The day my neighbor brought me the discarded rosary I learned that noted Catholic author Mitch Finley had written a book called "The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers and Those in Between."

I keep telling others about this upbeat and easy-to-understand book.

Finley, the recipient of six Catholic Press Association awards and an excellence in writing award from the American Society of Journalists and Authors, sheds light on a question I am asked occasionally: Why do Catholics refer to the "mysteries" of the rosary?

He says the term "mystery" is "correctly defined as 'a religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand.'"

Finley also points out that the rosary focuses on what theologians call the "Christ event." Central to this is Jesus' mother, Mary. Rather astonishingly, Finley convincingly affirms that the rosary is a feminist prayer.

"The rosary steepens a man's heart and soul in the feminine dignity and presence of the woman Mary," he explains. "Thus, men who pray the rosary with understanding grow to respect and honor all women more."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



CNS PHOTO BY DANILO KRSTANOVIC, REUTERS

A Bosnian woman holds her rosary during Christmas morning prayers at the Sarajevo cathedral Dec. 25, 2008.

I was most moved by Finley's thoughts on the sorrowful mysteries that help us see in the passion of Christ "the extent to which Jesus went in order to fully embrace the experience of being human. ... He had to abandon himself to his unavoidable fate and trust that God's love was trustworthy. And that's exactly what we must do as well."

In the final chapter of this beautiful book, Finley speaks of the luminous mysteries, added by Pope John Paul II in 2002, to emphasize that Jesus is the light of the world.

Finley singles out Jesus' baptism, his self-manifestation at the wedding at Cana, his proclaiming that the kingdom of God had come, his transfiguration and institution of the Eucharist.

"The addition of these 'new' rosary mysteries brings a more complete balance to the rosary and a more complete awareness of the public ministry of Jesus to those who pray the rosary," Finley says.

As for me, I believe if you read this book you'll think of the rosary in a new way. Once again it will be a key opening a doorway into the presence of God.

To parents in pain

Parents of children outside the faith should not despair

In the 1970s a Senate juvenile delinquency subcommittee surveyed 750 public school districts and reported the following changes:

School dropouts increased by 11 percent, drug and alcohol offenses on school property increased by 37 percent, burglaries of school buildings increased by 11 percent and assaults on teachers increased by 77 percent.

On the academic level, reading scores were down substantially, thus revealing an intellectual impoverishment that continued to spiral downward.

In the subsequent 40 years those statistics have become, unfortunately, progressively worse.

By comparison, the Catholic school system, which teaches spiritual values, has performed much better.

The nuns, whose vision, intellectual drive and personal commitment to excellence benefited a whole generation of baby boomers, took a lot of ribbing over the years from their students who put them down for their strict rules and old-fashioned ways.

Even so, these self-sacrificing women managed to produce a rich legacy of honorable graduates who in turn have become responsible parents and grandparents.

What of the Catholic parents who lament the fact that some of their youngsters have fallen away from their faith?

In today's mixed-up world, this is not too surprising. I do not judge them. I simply advise them not to put down themselves or their children.

For the most part, they did a good job protecting their children from the pervasive drug subculture and so many other damaging distractions.

Compared to having a juvenile delinquent on their hands, this disappointment pales in comparison.

I am proud of those parents who tried so hard to do their best for their children. And yes, I am also proud of the Catholic school system for teaching the words of Jesus, "Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



these things will be given you besides" (Mt 6:33).

Recently I saw the movie "A River Runs Through It" for the second time. Brad Pitt plays the son of a Protestant minister who instructed him well in the faith.

But the boy has a flare for dangerous risk-taking, calling the other boys "chicken" if they don't follow him in one reckless prank after another.

As he gets older, he begins defying the wisdom of his father by drinking and gambling.

Then the dreaded day comes when his parents receive news that their beloved son was beaten to death in a local bar.

At the funeral, his father holds back tears as he tries to preach the eulogy.

He manages to make the point that sometimes parents are unable to help those who are dearest to them.

Shaking his head sadly, he adds, "It seems the ones who need the most help refuse that help when it is offered to them."

How many good parents and grandparents have experienced this same kind of sorrow?

My heart goes out to all of you, especially those of you who have children who do not practice their faith.

You have given so much for your children.

Oftentimes you were rewarded with ingratitude and grief. But do not be disheartened. God is merciful!

Forgive yourself for not being a perfect human being. You did your best.

Remember, the Lord loves you and your children. Trust him and all will be well.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Ten things to do before Easter Sunday

Lent is about focusing on what matters, trimming away what doesn't

It can be hard when Lent seems like something added to your to-do list (or a lot of somethings!). If you're a parent, your everyday list is long.

So what do you bump or put on hold or admit to yourself you're never going to accomplish until the kids grow up and move away?

On the other hand, if you don't bump, put or admit, then Lent can be like any other time of the year, and that would be a shame. Not "shame on you," but a shame your family — and you — missed this opportunity.

It's good for your children to know, it's good for their parents to remember, that sacrificing is possible. More than a few families, no doubt including some in your parish, are already making a number of sacrifice this Lent and beyond because of current economic conditions.

They're cutting way back and doing without because they have no other choice.

Lent is about choice. About many choices. About, time and again, deciding to do something more or not to do

something you customarily like to do.

And Lent is about focusing. It's looking at what really matters and trimming away what doesn't.

If you'd like some ideas of what you can do from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, here are some suggestions:

1. Donate to the local food bank. These wonderful organizations have been under a lot of stress lately as they try to help more and more families.

Can't get over there with a bag of groceries? Send a check. Or go online. Many have ways to donate that way too.

2. As a family, read one complete Gospel. Yes, the first three (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are similar — synoptic — but each of them and John is unique.

3. Quit smoking. Yikes, that's a hard one, isn't it? A true sacrifice.

Not a smoker? Pray for those who are quitting. Pray for those who are suffering health problems related to smoking.

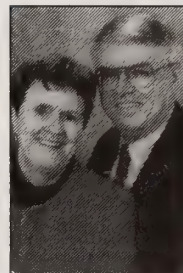
4. Get to at least one weekday Mass every week.

5. Learn to weave palms. A number of Web sites offer directions,

Your Family

BILL AND
MONICA
DODDS

CNS COLUMNISTS



including www.italiansrus.com/palms/palmpatterns.htm.

6. Post a prayer request list on the refrigerator. It's an easy way to remind yourself that "I'll pray for you" is a promise that matters. It's an easy way to teach your children how to become people who make those promises.

7. Learn a new recipe for fish. All those meatless Fridays offer the family a chance to try something new. A vegetarian menu could be a good choice.

In either case, in keeping with the spirit of Lent, keep it simple.

8. Ask forgiveness from someone you've hurt. Forgive someone who has hurt you. What a difference either can make.

9. Thank God for the gifts of faith, hope and love.

10. Hug your children and kiss your spouse!

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine.

The honeymoon is over

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



It seems like only yesterday that the United States was singing the praises of Barack Obama and hope filled the air. But a few weeks into his presidency some speculate that the honeymoon is over.

To know how true this is, all we need to do is listen to the nightly news. Republicans complain they are not being consulted, some Democrats aren't happy about the incentives and bailouts, and prominent candidates for Obama's cabinet have been scrubbed and campaign promises are being cautiously modified.

Why do honeymoons last but moments? A honeymoon is usually a time of awesome bliss. One of the definitions of "bliss" in Webster's dictionary is "heavenly joy."

When we think of heaven, we think of God, who is perfect, and saints, who tried to live as perfectly as possible.

One reason earthly joy dies out so quickly is because we are imperfect. We know it is right to be humble, but pride gets in the way. Kindness should be our trademark, but it is so easy to become ill-disposed.

We mouth the national saying — "in unity there is strength" — but more often than not we sow disunity, dissension and disaffection.

Another reason honeymoons don't last can be traced back to Christ. At first he is a welcomed hero and consoler. Wherever he goes, crowds follow, hoping to be cured and to receive favors.

After their courtship, marriage ceremony and honeymoon, young couples wake up one morning, realizing they need to face up to some of their selfish needs. Even though they pledged to love each other, they, like all honeymooners, need to readjust their standards. Marriage is a 50-50 proposition.

Yet another reason honeymoons are short-lived is because they raise the bar of hope and expectations too high, and the old saying "what goes up must come down" is ever so true.

In this world, it is unreasonable to expect a honeymoon to last long. Shangri-La is wonderful to contemplate and experience, but in reality idyllic vacations are short and work hours are long.

Just because honeymoons are short-lived there is no reason to dismiss them as unreal. They raise our hope and spirits and bless us with joyful memories. They are like a good, wholesome meal we need to bolster us every so often.

Even though the present honeymoon of Obama seems over, other honeymoons will come, and with each one we will be reminded that God endowed us with a beautiful desire to experience heaven on earth in anticipation of the real heaven.

Help for the unemployed

Christian principles can help overcome economic hardships

In the current economic crisis, hundreds of thousands of people at all levels of the corporate ladder have found themselves unemployed. More will undoubtedly follow in the months ahead.

Besides economic hardship, these workers are also experiencing a profound lifestyle change that, if not managed carefully, can put them at risk for developing health and emotional problems, even depression and a sense of worthlessness.

It is very natural to equate worth, skill and productivity with a job. But in reality our value is much more than a paycheck. It transcends the traditional concept of the workplace.

As Christians, we know that the Lord values each of us as precious children, and our workplace is, in truth, the world.

But how can we build upon this knowledge when there is seemingly no immediate, easy solution to daily needs and stresses? By putting Christian principles into practice.

Face reality. Now is not the time to hide under the proverbial covers! Make sure that you are doing all you can to keep afloat financially.

Apply for unemployment, determine health insurance possibilities, analyze daily expenses and cut costs where possible, put off unnecessary purchases and communicate with creditors to

minimize financial stress.

Keep busy. A new job will not usually fall from the sky.

Although there is no work schedule to keep an unemployed person busy, there is still plenty to do: assessing job prospects, networking with referrals given by friends and family, preparing a resume and list of references.

Make a list of things to do and try to accomplish at least three of them each day.

Pray and assess. Perhaps you had the perfect job. Perhaps you thought you did, but you really didn't. Being unemployed allows you unhurried time to pray for God's guidance and wisdom.

Take a sober, objective view of your talents and training. Listen for God's whisper urging you to go his way.

Look upon this time as a spiritual and personal adventure, one that will contain good insight and surprises.

Maintain relationships. When we face a crisis, we need others to support us, and we need to support them too.

Avoid feelings of jealousy toward those who are still employed. Focus instead on being a good friend, a strong encourager, a brother or sister in Christ.

Consider volunteering. No matter how dire your circumstances, there is always someone in greater need.

Through your parish, local schools, shelters or other organizations, there are opportunities for volunteering that will

Living Well

MAUREEN
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allow you to reach out to others and put your skills to work.

Tend to health. If you've ever used having to work as an excuse not to exercise, now's your chance! Set up a fitness schedule and stick to it. Prepare healthy meals. Allow your vitality to flow into other aspects of your life, especially your job search.

Seek help. The stresses stemming from being unemployed can lead to emotional and physical problems, including depression. These are nothing to be ashamed of, and they can be helped.

If you sense that the stress is becoming too much, seek help through your pastor, church family, physician or a trusted family member. Problems can look darkest when we keep them bottled inside.

In Romans 8:28, St. Paul writes: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

As scary as being unemployed can be, in faith we know that God is good, he calls us and we can draw strength from his purpose for our lives even in these troubled times.

To do no harm

Physicians take legal, educational steps to defend conscience rights

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — To combat what they see as threats to the conscience rights of health care professionals who oppose abortion, the Catholic Medical Association and other organizations are taking both legal and educational steps.

The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association, which has some

1,100 members nationwide, has joined with the Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in an effort to intervene legally against lawsuits filed by the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

The suits seek to overturn a Department of Health and Human Services

regulation that codifies several existing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections.

Without the regulation, members of the three groups would be subject to "the imminent threat of being forced ... to perform abortions, assist in abortions, train for abortions and refer individuals for abortions despite their religious, moral and ethical objections to the practice of abortion," said court papers filed with the U.S. District Court in Hartford, Conn.

Attorneys from the Alliance Defense Fund and the Center for Law & Religious

Freedom filed the motions on behalf of the three pro-life organizations.

"Physicians must defend their right to practice medicine in accordance with their conscience," said John Brehany, executive director of the Catholic Medical Association. "It's a very important principle that every physician should support."

Without conscience protections, for example, physicians or other health care professionals could be subject to government conscription to participate in the executions of death-row prisoners if the state could not find volunteers to do so, Brehany said.

The current lawsuits support the "notion that a court can demand (health care professionals) perform actions they believe to be evil," he added. "That's getting lost in the heated rhetoric" surrounding the abortion issue.

The motions to intervene argue that pro-life medical professionals could be "forced to relocate to jurisdictions that respect their rights or to leave the profession altogether" if there were no laws protecting their conscience rights.

The motions also criticize the "plaintiffs' baseless allegations that medical professionals exercising their conscience place women at risk of serious injury and even death by failing to render necessary services during medical emergencies."

The three pro-life groups "should be permitted to intervene to respond to these allegations and fully develop the factual record concerning the exercise of conscience by medical professionals," the motions add.

"I'm confident that the court will allow these doctors to intervene because they are the ones who will be forced" to perform or refer or train for abortions, said Bowman. "It's a direct attack on the only existing protections" for pro-life health professionals.

"When they try to strike down a regulation that implements laws in place for 30 years," Bowman said, "it affects every pro-life health professional."

But in addition to the legal actions, Brehany hopes members of the Catholic Medical Association will get involved personally in defending conscience rights by making the case before their local medical societies, through letters to the editor and in peer-to-peer contacts.

The association is preparing materials to help its members make its case in the various forums.

People need to know that even if the HHS regulation were to be overturned, "there are still laws that protect conscience rights," Brehany said. "We need to continue to defend and respect and explain the reasoning behind them."

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said conscience protection is "not something that Catholics are the only ones calling for."

"It is a matter of basic human and civil rights," she added. "You don't have to be religious to be against involvement with abortion."

McQuade noted that the Hippocratic oath, through which physicians pledge to "do no harm," originally included a promise to "offer no abortifacient."

"Those who are faithful to the letter and the spirit of the Hippocratic oath don't perform abortions," she said.

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Miraculous moments

Signs mark road to conversion for local Catholic woman

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of conversion stories.

CHARLOTTE — Gail Buckley is the founder and executive director of Catholic Scripture Study International. She serves on the board of directors of Catholics United for the Faith and on the steering committee for the Catholic Leadership Conference — all impressive accomplishments considering she was 45 years old before she discovered the Catholic faith.

Growing up in a small coastal town in North Carolina, Buckley was raised in the Methodist faith.

Although there was a

See CONVERT, page 5

The challenges of uncovering peace



CNS PHOTO BY FINBARR O'REILLY, REUTERS

Gold miners form a human chain while digging an open pit at the Chudja mine near the village of Kobu in north-eastern Congo, Feb. 23. Civil conflict in Congo has been driven for more than a decade by the violent struggle for control over the country's vast natural resources, including gold, diamonds and timber, most of which is exploited using hard manual labor.

Since '94, Africa has seen tremendous changes, but some issues remain

BY BRONWEN DACHS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is the first in a series in anticipation of Pope Benedict XVI's March 17-23 trip to Africa and the October Synod of Bishops on Africa.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — The African continent and the Catholic Church there have undergone tremendous changes since the 1994 Synod of Bishops on Africa, yet poverty, justice and reconciliation remain major issues for this October's synod.

The 1994 synod "opened with the tremendous tragedy of Rwanda and ended with the miracle of Nelson Mandela's inauguration as president of

See AFRICA, page 9

Water for a cause

Youths abstain from sodas, juice

MONEY SAVED TO DRILL WELL IN KENYA

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Youths at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro drank nothing but water for the past two weeks.

As part of a nationwide

See WELL, page 8

Dedicated to dialogue

Jewish, Catholic leaders launch new group to tackle religious strife

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Jewish and Catholic leaders Feb. 26 hashed out differences on issues ranging from the controversial sainthood cause of Pope Pius XII to Pope Benedict XVI's lifting of the excommunication of a British-born traditionalist bishop who claims the Holocaust was exaggerated.

The gathering of the religious leaders at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington was the start of what was being called a broad and permanent dialogue between the two religions.

In announcing this standing dialogue, the leaders said it will involve a broad spectrum of Jewish and Catholic

See JEWS, page 7



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Rabbi Irving Greenberg, founder and president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, speaks as Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, and Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley look on during a Feb. 26 press conference at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

Fighting FOCA

Local Catholics take part in pro-life postcard campaign

| PAGE 4

Exploring God's creation

Evolution debate continues among people of faith

| PAGE 6

Culture Watch

Book on author's return to Catholicism; 'Shumdog' story

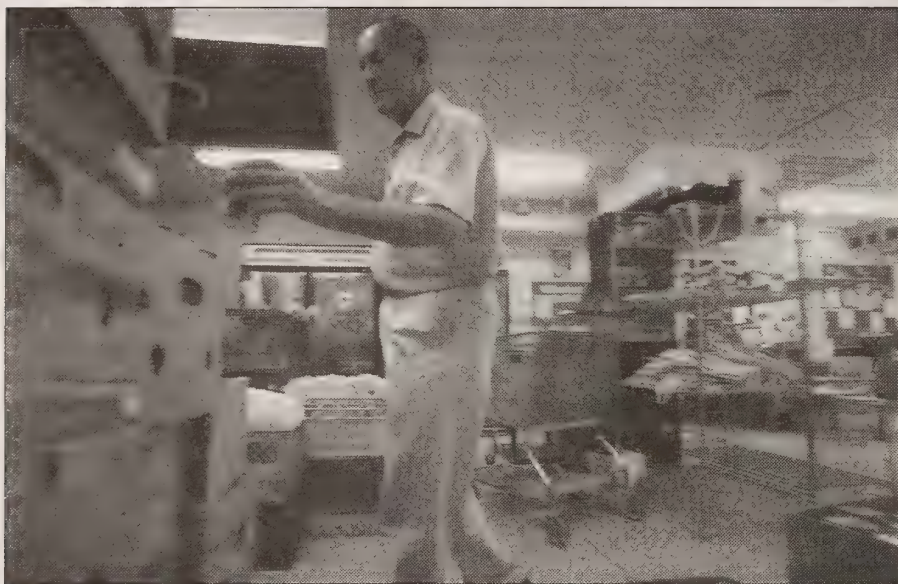
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BUILDING SOLIDARITY AND SOCIETY



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MAUNG

Volunteer Ben Slyn sorts cans of donated food at the Catholic Charities food resource center in downtown San Diego Feb. 26. Speakers at a Feb. 27 summit in New York said they see the current economic crisis as an opportunity for volunteerism.

Summit attendees see economic crisis as opportunity for volunteerism

NEW YORK (CNS) — The current economic crisis is an opportunity for volunteers from all sectors of the American public to work together to help their neighbors in need and even plant the seed for a national movement.

That was the view of participants at "A Nation of Neighbors Helping Neighbors: A Summit on Volunteerism as a Response to the Economic Crisis" sponsored Feb. 27 in New York by the Knights of Columbus and Fairfield University.

"More people are hurting and there are fewer dollars to help those in need," said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

"Charitable endowments have taken a crushing blow, but there are still 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week," he added, so people may be able to volunteer their time even if they cannot make financial contributions.

"Volunteerism builds solidarity with the people you're helping and contributes to a more humane society," he said.

The summit drew 185 participants from more than 115 organizations representing government, corporate, secular, Catholic and other religious groups from across the United States.

Jesuit Father Richard Ryscavage, director of the Center for Faith and Public Life at Jesuit-run Fairfield University in Connecticut, told Catholic News Service that nonprofit organizations are not well-known or appreciated by the government.

"People don't know that Catholic social services take a huge burden off the government and that many government programs are dependent on them. Washington doesn't understand this," he said.

"We want nonprofit organizations to

have their voices heard" as the Congress considers renewing the National Community Service Act of 1990, he said.

That legislation established the Corporation for National and Community Services to support and encourage volunteering and community service.

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time is \$19.51 an hour.

Anderson said the range and number of summit participants "is further proof of the deep concern we have as a nation for our neighbor, and shows the very best of cooperation."

He challenged each sector represented to expand its use and understanding of volunteers. He urged government officials not to "reinvent the wheel" but to draw on the "hundreds of years of experience" of the volunteer organizations.

Anderson said if more corporations reached out to their communities through volunteer programs "they would be more disposed to the common good in their thinking than just profits. They would look at customers as neighbors and not just abstractions."

Anderson said churches and synagogues should bring volunteer opportunities to the people in their pews.

"People will be more likely to volunteer if they are approached through their church and they know that the people they prayed with Saturday or Sunday will be the people they will be serving their community with later in the week," he said.

He told CNS that Catholic groups have a leadership role in the form of witness and service.

"If we do those two things right, we provide a kind of example people can follow," he said.

Catholic governor criticized by archbishop nominated as HHS secretary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic governor whose archbishop has told her not to receive Communion until she changes her stand on abortion is President Barack Obama's latest choice for secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The nomination of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as HHS secretary was announced March 2 at the White House. Sebelius has been governor of Kansas since 2003.

Sebelius has drawn strong criticism from Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., who said in 2008 that she should not present herself for Communion until she publicly repudiates her support for abortion.

The archbishop said his decision was not based only on her April 2008 veto of the Comprehensive Abortion Reform Act, which would have placed new requirements on abortion providers, but on "a 30-year history of advocating and acting in support of legalized abortion."

In a 2008 column about the governor,

Archbishop Naumann said that as a state representative Sebelius "voted to weaken or eliminate even such modest measures as parental notification for teens, waiting periods or informed-consent protections for women before an abortion."

In April 2007, in an event at the governor's mansion, she honored Dr. George Tiller, known for performing late-term abortions in Wichita, Kan., and Dr. LeRoy Carhart, a Nebraska abortion doctor. Tiller faces trial beginning March 16 on 19 counts of performing illegal late-term abortions.

Sebelius also clashed with the Kansas bishops on the issue of embryonic stem-cell research, when she praised the move by voters in Missouri to forbid any action by the state Legislature to regulate or limit embryonic stem-cell research.

A group called Catholics for Sebelius has launched a Web site touting the governor's Catholic background and her actions in support of "the common good."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Solemn Vespers of Lent* will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers, or evening prayer, completes the Divine Service for that day. Evening vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 8, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin gives the reflection on the second word, "This day thou shalt be with me in paradise." On March 15, Father John Putnam gives the reflection on the third word, "Woman, behold thy Son." For more information, contact the cathedral office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — A *Lenten Day of Reflection for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and their Friends and Family* will be presented by Mercy Sister Rita Marie Pickhinke at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sister Pickhinke has worked with deaf people since 1964 and is the founder of Catholic Ministry to Deaf People, Inc. She holds degrees in teaching in special education and deaf education. This event is free and lunch will be provided. To register, go to www.stmatthewcatholic.org. For more information, contact Jo Ann Van Camp at jvcxtwo@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Matthew Columbiettes (Auxiliary 10852)* invite all women who are past or present members of a Columbiettes organization and are looking to attend meetings in the Charlotte area. The group meets at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Room 204 of the New Life Center. For more information, e-mail columbiettes10852@yahoo.com or call membership chairwoman Anita at (704) 900-8605.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an *introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality* led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *17th Annual United in Prayer Day* will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program will focus on the topic of centering prayer and will include a showing of a DVD featuring Father Thomas Keating. This event is free and open to the public. Participants should bring a bag lunch and drink. For more information, contact Becky Hannah at (828) 667-2799 or becky.hannah@gmail.com, or contact Sande Donecho at (828) 697-7420 or sdonecho@bellsouth.net.

ARDEN — A *Women's Lenten Program on the theme "Staying at the Cross"* will be held at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., March 28. Stations of the Cross, led by local Secular Franciscan women, will take place at 9 a.m. Registration is at 9:45 a.m.; the program begins at 10 a.m. with guest speakers and small-group discussions. A soup and salad luncheon will be provided and door prizes will be awarded. All women are welcome; there is no cost to attend. To RSVP, contact Marcia Torres at (828) 697-1235 or johnandmarciatorres@yahoo.com.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

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MARCH 6, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 18

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope highlights importance of angels, offers prayers for jobs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Shortly before beginning his annual Lenten retreat, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics to invoke the protection of angels and he exhorted politicians and business leaders to give priority to saving jobs as they face the global economic crisis.

Reciting the Angelus March 1 with visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about the day's Gospel story about Jesus being tempted in the desert.

But instead of highlighting Satan's efforts to trick Jesus, he focused on the line that says the angels served Jesus during his 40 days in the desert.

Throughout the Bible, he said, angels, "luminous and mysterious figures," are sent in the name of God to help and to guide people, showing them the path to safety and proclaiming good news to them.

"Dear brothers and sisters, we cut

out a significant part of the Gospel if we set aside these beings sent by God to announce his presence among us," the pope said.

"Let us invoke them often so that they would support us in our commitment to following Jesus," the pope said.

Pope Benedict also prayed that the angels "would watch over me and my collaborators" during their weeklong Lenten retreat at the Vatican.

In addition to entrusting workers to the protection of St. Joseph, patron of workers, the pope said, "I want to express my encouragement to both political and civil authorities as well as to business leaders so that with the cooperation of everyone this delicate moment can be faced."

"A common and strong commitment is needed" to overcome the economic crisis, "remembering that priority must be given to workers and their families," Pope Benedict said.

All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be March 21 on the topic, "Manifestation of God's Love: Economy." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes are now accepting applications for the Gene Marie Alfaro Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is pursuing a career in nursing or other health-related fields. If interested, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624. To be considered, applications must be received by April 14.

MINT HILL — A Lenten preparation program for adults will be held at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Saturday afternoons during Lent from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Sister Veronica Grover will lead the study on the documents and teachings of the church and how we can relate these to modern times. Donations of canned goods will be collected to help stock local food pantries. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 545-1224.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

MOUNT HOLLY — A special Mass and wreath laying ceremony in honor of Irish Catholic immigrants, who founded St. Joseph Church, will be held at the church March 17 at 10 a.m. A wreath will be placed on the grave of the first pastor, Father T.J. Cronin, and flags will be placed on the graves. Father Joseph Pearce, state chaplain for the N.C. Ancient Order of Hibernians, will celebrate Mass in the church. For more information or directions, contact Joseph Dougherty at (704) 942-6345 or jdougherty09436@roadrunner.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

STONEVILLE — The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province will host a discernment retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., March 20-22. The retreat is free and open to all men who are interested in a weekend of reflection and peaceful recreation. Come and discern where

God is calling you, pray and celebrate the Eucharist, and enjoy the beauty of a 140-acre wooded reserve. For more information, call Father Brian Smail at (800) 677-7788.

GREENSBORO — A screening of the documentary, "Love Lived on Death Row," will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., March 26, 7-9 p.m. The documentary tells the true story of the Syriani sibling's journey from hate and anger to love and forgiveness for their father who was sentenced to death for the 1990 murder of their mother. A panel discussion will follow the screening. For more information, call Jeannine Martin (336) 294-4696 ext. 225.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A Lenten Mission: "Forgiveness Leads to Wellness and Joy," led by the Father Dennis Corrado will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, March 9-11 at 7 p.m. The mission is free and open to the public. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail at stalloysius@charter.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmooore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Number of priests showing steady, moderate increase, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest church statistics show that the number of priests and seminarians around the world has been showing a modest, yet steady increase.

The statistics from the end of 2007 also showed that the number of Catholics remains stable at 1.147 billion people across the globe.

The sampling of statistics was released Feb. 28 in connection with the presentation of the 2009 edition of the Vatican yearbook, known as the *Annuario Pontificio*, which catalogs the church's presence in each diocese.

The Vatican said the global Catholic population increased during 2007 by 1.4 percent, which more or less kept pace with the 1.1 percent global birthrate that year.

For the past two years, Catholics have made up 17.3 percent of the world's population, it said.

The number of priests in the world also rose, but just by 0.18 percent. At the end of 2007 there were 408,024 priests in the world, 762 more than at the beginning of the year.

The figure on the number of priests

was showing a continued "trend of moderate growth which began in 2000 after more than 20 years of disappointing results," the Vatican report said.

However, that growth has been confined to Africa and Asia, which showed substantial increases in ordinations with 27.6 percent growth and 21.1 percent growth, respectively, it said.

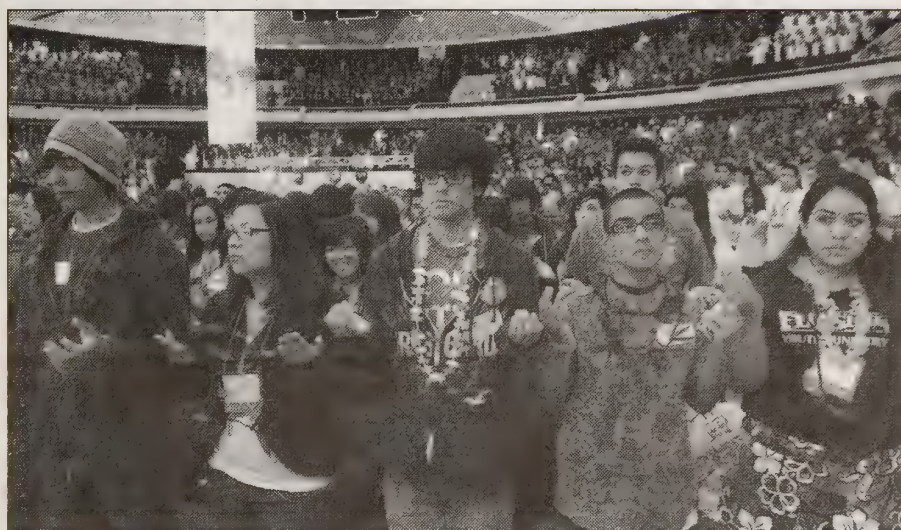
The number of priests has remained more or less the same in the Americas, while Europe registered a 6.8 percent decline and Oceania reported a 5.5 percent decrease in the total number of priests since 2000, said the Vatican.

The number of seminarians increased by 0.4 percent in 2007. At the end of the year, there were 115,919 seminarians.

However, only Africa and Asia saw significant growth in priestly vocations, while numbers fell by 2.1 percent in Europe and by 1 percent in the Americas, the Vatican said.

The report said the number of permanent deacons continued to show significant growth. There were 35,942 deacons at the end of 2007 — an increase of 4.1 percent over the previous year, it said.

Growing in faith



CNS BY VICTOR ALEMAN, VIDA NUEVA

Young people pray during the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, Calif., Feb. 27. The Religious Education Congress, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Religious Education, is one of the nation's largest annual Catholic gatherings. The four-day event drew some 40,000 teenagers and young adults from across the country and as far away as the United Kingdom and Australia.

Federal appeals court upholds ruling Vatican can be sued over abuse

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco March 3 upheld a 2006 lower court ruling that the Vatican is not entitled to sovereign immunity from a clergy sex abuse lawsuit that named it as a defendant.

But it narrowed the extent of that ruling by remanding the case to the lower court "for further proceedings" before the suit against the Vatican can go forward.

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit issued the decision on a June 7, 2006, ruling by U.S. District Judge Michael W.

Mosman in Portland, Ore.

The case before the court, *John V. Doe v. Holy See*, was first filed in Portland in April 2002.

It involves claims that the victim, identified only as John V. Doe, was sexually abused in Portland in 1965 or 1966, at the age of 15 or 16, by Servite Father Andrew Ronan, who was then stationed at his order's Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland.

He was laicized in 1966 and allegedly had previously admitted to sexually abusing children at earlier postings in Ireland and in Chicago. He died in 1992.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 10 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 12 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 14 (11 a.m.)
Mass of Deacon Recommitment
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 17 (7 p.m.)
St. Patrick's Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Fighting FOCA



COURTESY PHOTO

Melanie Feeney-Lewis (right), a member of Columbiettes council 8509 and parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, delivers "Fight FOCA" postcards to Katie Davis, constituent liaison to Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, at Foxx's Clemson office Jan. 28.

Catholics take part in national pro-life postcard campaign

KERNERSVILLE — Catholics in Kernersville recently voiced their opposition to potential Congressional action to reverse current pro-life policies.

The parish Respect Life Committee and Columbiettes Council 8509 jointly conducted a "Fight FOCA" postcard campaign at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Jan. 24-25.

The national postcard campaign, launched Jan. 24-25, asked members of Congress to oppose the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), or any measures similar to it. FOCA would revoke most pro-life laws at the state and federal levels.

While FOCA has not yet been introduced in the 111th Congress, "this legislation is extremely dangerous," said Maggie Nadol, director of Respect Life, a program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The diocesan Respect Life ministry helped distribute the postcards and instructional packets to parishes throughout the diocese.

A majority of U.S. dioceses participated in the recent postcard campaign, according to a Feb. 4 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Through its partner organization, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, the USCCB has been sponsoring national postcard campaigns related to various pro-life causes since 1993.

The original campaign, held at the start of President Bill Clinton's first term in office, also targeted the Freedom of Choice Act.

"The response at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville was overwhelming," said Melanie Feeney-Lewis, a member of the Columbiettes.

The effort at Holy Cross Church resulted in 1,500 postcards being mailed to North Carolina's members of Congress. Postcards also were delivered to Rep. Virginia Foxx's Clemson office Jan. 28.



Respect Life is funded in part through contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA runs Feb. 1 through March 8.



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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, blesses the new Guardian Angel Memorial Garden on the church property Feb. 27.

Guardian in the garden

Memorial garden features Stations of the Cross

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners of St. Gabriel Church have a new outdoor area for prayer, meditation and reflection.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor, blessed the Guardian Angel Memorial Garden on the church property during a candlelit ceremony Feb. 27.

The garden began as an Eagle rank project by David Roux and Jeffrey Melando, members of Boy Scout

Troop 174 at St. Gabriel Church.

The garden includes a stone path, benches, a guardian angel statue and Stations of the Cross.

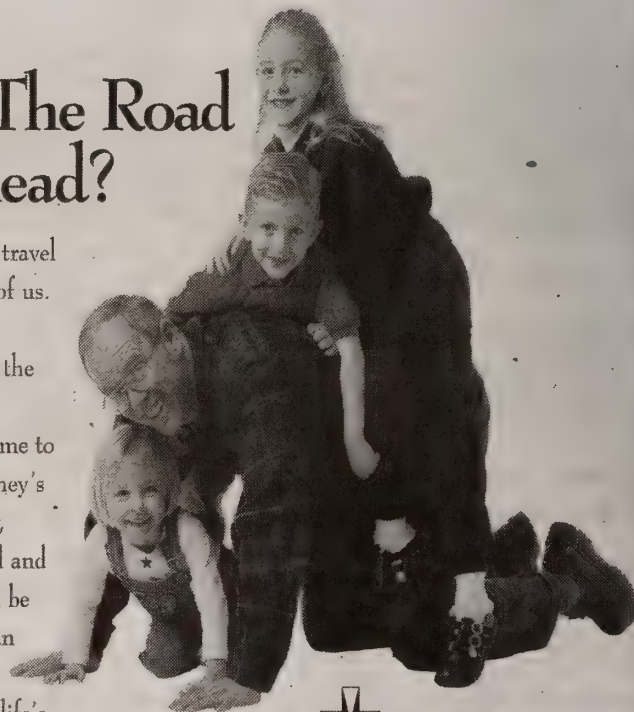
Some of the memorial garden's donors are parents who have lost children.

"It provides a quiet meditation area for bereaved parents" and is open to all for quiet reflection and prayer, said Claudia Putnam, parish business manager.

What's The Road Like Ahead?

The road we have to travel is different for each of us. The only certainty is that we all must end the journey some day.

If you take the time to prepare for that journey's end now, your family, favorite parish, school and diocesan ministry will be supported. A will is an essential part of that overall plan for your life's journey.



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To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320; 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org

FROM THE COVER

Signs mark road to conversion for local Catholic

CONVERT, from page 1

Catholic church in her town, she admits that she knew little about Catholicism.

"I would often see the nuns, dressed in their habits, walking to the Catholic school," said Buckley. "I considered them to be very holy, although I knew nothing about the Catholic faith."

When Buckley was 15, she went with a friend and her family to the beach at the Outer Banks for Mother's Day weekend.

"It was the first Mother's Day I had ever spent away from my mother and I knew that saddened her," said Buckley. "But I was too excited to think about that; all I could think about was myself."

A storm had recently hit the Outer Banks, leaving many of the houses demolished.

While Buckley and her friend were searching through scattered debris in the sand dunes, something shiny caught her eye. She thought it was a charm.

"I picked it up, looked at it and although it had an inscription on it, it didn't make any sense to me so I just put it in my pocket," said Buckley. "My mother later told me that she thought it was something Catholic."

A charming journey

During the next 30 years, Buckley turned away from her relationship with God.

She sought happiness from material

things, a practice that left her feeling empty and unsatisfied.

"One night when I was at my lowest point, I fell on my knees and prayed for the first time in many years," she said. "'Lord,' I said, 'I can't handle my life anymore; I want you to take over my life.'"

That marked a turning point in her life.

"The next morning I awoke a brand new person," she said. "I couldn't stop talking about Jesus."

Buckley started reading the Bible and other religious books.

"I went through these books like a starving person, devouring every word," she said. "Yet I never realized that all the books I was reading were Catholic."

In one book, Buckley recalled reading about a miraculous medal.

"I was thoroughly intrigued and determined to get myself one of these amazing medals," she said.

But before she went to a Catholic bookstore in search of the medal, she had a realization.

"I glanced over at all the books I'd recently been reading. All of a sudden the thought came into my head, 'all these books are Catholic,'" she said.

Buckley thought that perhaps God was trying to send her the message that she should become Catholic.

"If that's what you want Lord, please make it very clear to me," she said. "'Have someone say to me, 'Would you like to become Catholic?' and then I'll know for sure that is what you want.'"

When Buckley arrived at the Catholic bookstore, she realized she had no idea



COURTESY PHOTO

Gail Buckley, seen here in this 2007 photo, is the founder of Catholic Scripture Study International. Buckley, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, converted to Catholicism in 1994.

what a miraculous medal looked like.

She explained to the saleswoman that she wasn't Catholic and asked for assistance. The saleswoman asked her if she would be interested in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Not knowing what that was, Buckley explained to the woman that she wasn't sure.

"Oh," she said, "I'm sorry. What I'm trying to say is, would you like to become Catholic?"

Buckley was amazed.

"Just twenty minutes ago I had asked the Lord if he wanted me to be Catholic, to have someone say those exact words to me," she said.

The next day, Buckley began RCIA at St. Ann Church in Charlotte. She was confirmed at the Easter Vigil in 1994.

"The day I was confirmed was one of the happiest days of my life," said Buckley. "I felt like a new bride."

"Three years after entering the church, I was on the phone talking to a friend about my conversion when I remembered finding that Catholic 'charm' on the sand dune 33 years earlier," said Buckley.

When she found the "charm" still in her jewelry box, she realized it was a miraculous medal.

When Buckley looked back on that Mother's Day weekend and her trip to the Outer Banks, she thought about how she had chosen to go on the trip despite her mother's wishes.

"I had forsaken my mother on Mother's Day to pursue my own selfish interest, but my heavenly mother had not forsaken me."

"I believe God sent her on that Mother's Day and that she has been with me throughout all these years, gently guiding me back to him," she said. "It took 30 years and many wrong turns but, thanks be to God, I'm finally home."

Growing in faith

Buckley launched Catholic Scripture Study in August 2003.

For that first session there were about 60 classes nationwide. Now there are approximately 15,000 participants in more than 40 countries.

The mission of Catholic Scripture Study International is to bring people closer to Jesus Christ and his church through in-depth Scripture study.

The program strives to help Catholics grow in knowledge of their faith by providing user-friendly materials, ongoing one-on-one support, and comprehensive online resources.

During the past six years, Buckley has continued to grow in her faith.

"Jesus is the center of my life and everything revolves around him and his church," she said. "I feel extremely blessed to be able to serve him through the mission of Catholic Scripture Study."

"I tell everyone this is his program, not mine," said Buckley. "He's just allowing me to be the steward of it and I pray that he will continue to use me as long as I am on this earth."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail knmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Exploring God's creation

After 150 years, evolution debate continues among people of faith

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As scientists, theologians and philosophers gathered March 3-7 in Rome for a Vatican-sponsored congress marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's theory on evolution, they hoped to help Catholic Church officials better understand some of the current thought and research related to evolutionary biology.

"The program is to reorient the conversation between the Catholic Church and modern natural science, to get a new kind of conversation going," explained Phillip Sloan, professor of liberal studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and a congress planner. "It's establishing a dialogue on science and theology because of the great challenges that modern sciences are presenting to traditional theological understanding," he said.

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture under its Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest project, the University of Notre Dame and several of Rome's pontifical universities, the gathering of international scholars and Vatican officials was one of a series of events surrounding the publication of Darwin's landmark work.

Darwin's theory, which several popes have accepted as compatible with Catholic teaching, remains a contentious topic in the United States. The arguments have focused on whether the Genesis story of creation should hold the same stature as evolution in the classroom.

The discussion has taken on an added dimension with the growing movement to promote intelligent design, which accepts that life has evolved over the eons but that because it is so complex its development has been guided by a supreme being or intelligent agent, which some identify as God.

Sloan said that how society sees evolution has been shaped by the popular media, which omits any role for God in creation. Without God somewhere in the equation, it becomes a lot easier for people of faith to reject Darwin's premise about the existence of life.

A Gallup Poll released Feb. 12, the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, showed that 39 percent of Americans accept evolutionary theory while 25 percent do not. Another 36 percent of respondents had no opinion.

Catholic support

Popes Pius XII, John Paul II and Benedict XVI in particular have expressed interest in biological evolution. Pope Pius XII wrote in a 1950 encyclical that there was no conflict between evolution and faith, as long as there were certain firm points of faith where no concession can be made.

More than half a century later Pope John Paul II cited the encyclical in offering firm support for Darwin's work, telling the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1996 that "new knowledge leads to recognition of the theory of

evolution as more than a hypothesis."

Despite such public support, Catholics have a shallow understanding of the issues that Darwin's theory raises, Sloan explained in announcing the congress in September 2008.

Sloan told Catholic News Service the conference will be a step toward helping interject Catholics into the discussion, but with a focus on the nature of human existence. People of faith do not have to be backed into a corner, forced to choose one or the other, leading Catholic proponents of evolution told CNS.

Martinez-Hewlett, professor emeritus of molecular and cellular biology at the University of Arizona, said Christians, and Catholics in particular, would benefit from greater education about evolution and faith. He suggested such efforts should not just be focused in classrooms but from pulpits as well.

Hewlett, a lay Dominican who teaches courses on science and religion at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., accepts the science of biological evolution because "it is good science" and offers the best explanation for the observations about how life developed on earth.

"Science by itself doesn't say anything about our spiritual nature, about us as children of God. We need to help folks understand that the evolutionary model is a very rich paradigm that gives us all of our biology, and implicitly our medicine, with all of the things it can do for us," he said. "However the science of evolution doesn't contain any of the anti-religious things that some people claim."

Biologist Kenneth Miller, a leading science educator at Brown University in Rhode Island and a popular lecturer, holds firm to the theory of evolution as explaining how life, including complex life, developed on earth.

As a lifelong Catholic, Miller said his faith and his profession hardly are contradictory. "Look at what evolution tells us," he said. "We live on a planet and in a universe where the very laws of nature are remarkably hospitable to the emergence of new life. We as human beings are part of that natural fabric."

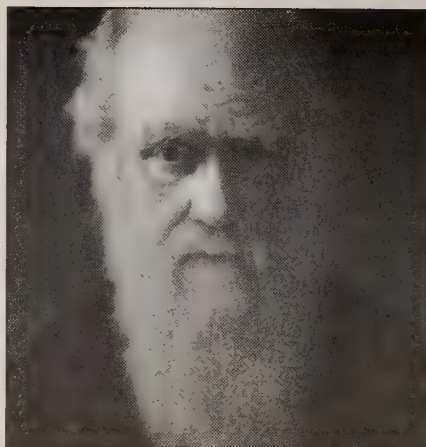
"Evolution is a way to understand the wisdom of the creative power of God. God is a lot more clever than we generally give him credit for," he said.

And Sandra Yocum, chairwoman of the religious studies department at the University of Dayton, in Ohio, said understanding evolution "helps us with our understanding of who God is, to understand that God is more mysterious than we recognize."

Complex matters

While Darwinian evolution has its shortcomings, it remains the most plausible theory of how the world got to where it is today in the mind of Miller's friend, John Haught, senior fellow in science and religion at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University in Washington.

Haught, who has written several books



CNS PHOTO BY TAL COHEN, REUTERS

Charles Darwin is pictured in a detail from British artist John Collier's 1883 painting on display at Darwin's former home in Kent, England, Feb. 12.

on theology and evolution, told CNS that some objections to evolution remain because many of its supporters have adopted a materialistic view of the world. That view holds that matter — nothing more — is all there is in the world.

Rather, Haught outlined a view of creation that is much more dynamic, in which he describes God as being "more interested in adventure" than in "maintaining the status quo," leading to the creation of beauty, diversity and enjoyment. "Evolution occurs because God wants to maximize freedom," Haught said. "Any universe that gives rise to free beings like ourselves, it has to be something other than perfectly designed."

"Everything would be fixed in its place forever; no wiggle room, no freedom, no future, no room for hope, no room for action, no room for the emergence of virtue, no room for religious aspiration," he said.

Many religious fundamentalists adhere to the creation story in Genesis and believe God created the world and humans in their present form 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. A second premise, known as intelligent design, has emerged over the last three decades. While its critics maintain that intelligent design is a repackaged version of creationism, its supporters say it has its foundation in science.

Leading intelligent design promoter Michael J. Behe, a Catholic and a biochemist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, told CNS that life is too complex to have evolved on its own.

"Darwin's theory works great if

you've got some system working well already and can improve it by some excruciatingly tiny steps," Behe said. "I think evolution is guided or set up or rigged somehow to produce what it has produced. Intelligent design is not a religious conclusion; it's an empirical conclusion. We didn't expect this machinery in the cell and we didn't expect the foundation of life to be so complicated. Now that it is, we have to come up with the best explanation for it."

Behe is among a small number of scientists who support intelligent design and as a result has been pushed to the margins of modern scientific research.

On the other side of the argument, a growing number of scientists are using evolutionary theory to justify no belief in God. One of the most vocal has been author Richard Dawkins, a British scientist whose best-selling books have challenged anyone who believes that God has any role in creation whatsoever.

Just as he defends evolution from its opponents, Miller, the Brown University biologist, often is called upon to defend his belief in God.

Nonbelieving and agnostic colleagues point to examples of pain and suffering in the world as evidence that there is no God. But he turns their argument around by saying if suffering did not exist humans would be living in a perfect world.

"You are asking for a world where no one ever gets sick and to live in a padded room where you can never hurt yourself and no one can ever hurt you," he answers the skeptics. "There would be no opportunity to display courage, cure disease, solve social ills. In short, your idea is that if there were a God we'd already be living in heaven."

Sloan said that the Rome congress would hardly end the debate over evolution, but instead will reflect upon current scientific understanding of Darwin's theory. He said one question remains: How can we accept evolutionary theory and also defend the differences between human beings and the natural world? "What's needed," he explained, "is a new kind of dialogue in which Christianity and Catholicism is quite willing to accept the input of the natural sciences but also add to it the remarkable nature of the human being."

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IN THE NEWS

Jewish, Catholic leaders to tackle religious strife

JEWS, from page 1

representatives who will meet regularly to deal with struggles as they arise.

Though Jewish and Catholic groups have met frequently since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, this new dialogue is considered the first continuous and overarching panel between the two religions. It will be based at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, as requested by the Vatican.

The inaugural topics for the group that came together Feb. 26 included:

— Tensions over Pope Benedict lifting the excommunication of Bishop Richard Williamson, who has publicly denied the extent of the Holocaust.

— The long-standing controversy over the sainthood cause of Pope Pius XII, the World War II pontiff accused by Jewish leaders of not doing enough or saying enough in defense of the Jews and other victims of the Nazis.

— The Vatican's 2008 publication of Pope Benedict's revised prayer for the Jews for use in extraordinary form of the Mass Good Friday liturgies, which prays that Jews will recognize Jesus, the savior, and that "all Israel may be saved."

"In the past months, these have been troubling times, especially in the Jewish community as a whole," said Rabbi Irving Greenberg, founder and president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, known as CLAL.

"We did have spirited discussions today, but no one walked out or blew up, and there was more consensus than disagreement," he said.

Proactive efforts

The nearly 30 U.S. Jewish and Catholic leaders chose Feb. 26 to meet in Washington because it marked the 30th day since the death of Rabbi Leon Klenicki, a pioneer in interfaith dialogue and a contemporary and friend of Pope John Paul II, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Since Rabbi Klenicki had been committed to constructive Jewish-Catholic relations, the leaders decided to discuss their differences in a conference

as a way of honoring the interfaith stalwart, Foxman said.

The new panel, whose participants organizers hope to have confirmed by May 1, is another way of honoring Rabbi Klenicki, said Father Dennis McManus, assistant director of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

"There is going to be wide representation of leaders who will engage in ongoing dialogue," Father McManus told Catholic News Service following a press conference announcing the new group. "The idea is to have a standing dialogue so we can address concerns as they arise, and not be just reactive."

Explaining excommunication

During the hourlong press conference — which was delayed by an hour because the delegations' talks went on longer than expected — Jewish representatives stressed they were still not satisfied with the handling of the Bishop Williamson situation and maintained that stronger action by Pope Benedict would be appropriate.

Catholic leaders also expressed their embarrassment over Bishop Williamson's remarks aired on Swedish television stating that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

The Catholics leaders also said they needed to disassociate themselves from clergy who don't embrace the teachings of the Catholic Church, which recognizes the Holocaust as a great tragedy in history.

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley explained that Pope Benedict's lifting of the excommunication only allows Bishop Williamson to receive the sacraments of the church, but doesn't permit him to serve as a Catholic bishop, and his full union with the church will only happen if he embraces the spirit of Vatican II, which acknowledged the Holocaust.

"Vatican II affirmed the number of Jews who died in the Holocaust," said Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, who is the U.S. bishops' moderator of Catholic-Jewish affairs. "It was the wish of (Pope) John XXIII that the council was to make it so Catholic teaching couldn't be used as an excuse to hit at Jewish people."

The Vatican has said Bishop Williamson would not be allowed to function as a bishop in the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized. Since then he has expressed regret for the remarks he made, but a Vatican spokesman said Feb. 27 that the bishop's statement does not meet the Vatican's demand that he publicly recant his position.

The Feb. 26 gathering in Washington was being trumpeted as the most significant gathering of Catholic and Jewish leaders since Pope Benedict's two events with Jewish audiences during his 2008 U.S. visit. Religious leaders called the formation of the new dialogue group a historic event.

"A thousand years from now we will see this as one of the great transforming accomplishments in our long-shared history," Rabbi Greenberg said.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI exchanges gifts with Rabbi Arthur Schneier (left) of New York's Park East Synagogue, and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, during their meeting at the Vatican Feb. 12.

A ray of light

Rabbi says trip to Israel can help pope show his respect for Judaism

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Poland's chief rabbi said he hopes Pope Benedict XVI's trip to Israel will be an opportunity for the pope to demonstrate to the world his deep knowledge of and respect for Judaism.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the U.S.-born chief rabbi of Poland, said the May trip can be "very enlightening and help Pope Benedict show in a very clear way" the sensitivity and respect that has been clear in his writings for decades.

"I am full of hope," the rabbi told Catholic News Service March 2 after delivering the second annual Pope John Paul II Lecture on Interreligious Understanding at Rome's Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Rabbi Schudrich's speech focused on how he learned from "the life and actions" of Pope John Paul about the importance of interreligious dialogue and of being willing to learn from members of other religions.

But the rabbi said he could not talk about Catholic-Jewish relations without acknowledging that "it clearly was very painful" when Pope Benedict lifted the excommunication in January of traditionalist Bishop Richard Williamson, who had denied the extent of the Holocaust.

"It is not my place to tell or even suggest to Pope Benedict or the Vatican what they should or should not do," the rabbi said.

The incident has demonstrated that 40 years of improving relations make it possible for Jews and Catholics to speak openly when offended or hurt, he said.

"It is just because of the past 40 years of dialogue and discussions that we were

able to face this dark moment," he said. "It was a test for us, but it also taught us that we have no other option than to rededicate ourselves to dialogue in an even deeper and more meaningful way."

In an interview after his speech, the rabbi said the Bishop Williamson affair caused many people to "jump to the conclusion" that Pope Benedict was not scandalized by Holocaust denial.

But Rabbi Schudrich said he and others who know the writings of the pope know that is not true.

"John Paul II was a great theological thinker, but even more, he knew how to get his point across" through his words and gestures, the rabbi said, adding that Pope Benedict's trip to Israel should give him an opportunity to do the same.

In his speech, the rabbi said Pope John Paul's attitude toward Judaism and other religions helped him discover a teaching present within Judaism as well: The fact that God created each person in his image and likeness means that each person has something to teach us.

"If God created us all as his children and created us so that all of us would learn to love him and each other, then it must be the fulfillment of God's plan when we seek inspiration and truth from each other," the rabbi said.

"The more I am open to other religions, the better Jew I become," he said. "Furthermore, when I close myself off from the outside world, I limit my access to the rays of light, truth and wisdom" present in others.

"This philosophy is so profound, it so changed my view of the world, of my God and of myself, that all I can say is 'Thank you, Pope John Paul II for teaching me how to become a better person and a better Jew,'" Rabbi Schudrich said.

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CNS PHOTO BY PHILIPON BULAWAYO, REUTERS

A girl eats outside her home in the Harare suburb of Epworth, Zimbabwe, Feb. 25. The country's economy is in ruins with runaway inflation and a nonfunctioning health care system. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe to release detained activists and said such a move would help unlock international humanitarian support for the country.

Praying for a miracle

Zimbabwe one of 'biggest challenges' facing Africans, says cardinal

BY BRONWEN DACHS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of a series in anticipation of Pope Benedict XVI's March 17-23 trip to Africa and the October Synod of Bishops on Africa.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — One of the "biggest challenges" facing Africans today is the situation in Zimbabwe, said South African Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban.

The country's economy is in ruins with runaway inflation, and in mid-February Doctors Without Borders reported that Zimbabwe's health care system, once a model for southern Africa, has collapsed.

Doctors Without Borders said the government is restricting and politicizing humanitarian aid relief.

Since 1994, the average life expectancy in Zimbabwe has fallen from 57 years to 34 years for women and from 54 years to 37 years for men, according to statistics from the U.N.'s World Health Organization.

After a meeting with Zimbabwean bishops in January, South Africa's bishops said that "Zimbabwe has moved from a crisis to a disaster to passive genocide."

"Zimbabwe's steady decline began around 1994," said Father Frederick Chiromba, secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference.

After the country's independence from Britain in 1980, its education and health systems flourished and Zimbabwe was known as the breadbasket of the region, he said.

But even then President Robert Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe since 1980, was intent on eliminating opposition.

In 1997, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace published its findings of the 1980s killings by the military of an estimated 20,000 people in the Zimbabwean region of Matabeleland.

In 1999 "the first real opposition" to Mugabe — the Movement for Democratic Change — was formed, Father Chiromba said.

He said "a good portion of its leaders were ZANU-PF (ruling party) members who saw the need for change."

Since the movement's formation, "there have been controversial electoral outcomes" and accusations of rigging in every presidential and parliamentary vote, he said.

Human rights groups have said that, since the March 2008 elections, opposition supporters have been the targets of brutal state-sponsored violence that left more than 80 dead and 200,000 displaced.

In mid-February Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who won the March 2008 elections, was sworn in as Zimbabwe's prime minister in a unity government.

Cardinal Napier, one of three papally appointed presidents of the October Synod of Bishops on Africa, noted that during the last synod, South Africa had its first all-race elections, ending years of strict racial segregation.

He said his "prayer is that another miracle, such as that in South Africa in 1994, will occur in the year of this synod that will provide hope for Zimbabweans."

Youths raise funds to dig well in Kenya

WELL, from page 1

service project known as The H2O Challenge, the youths are raising money and awareness for communities that don't have access to clean drinking water.

The challenge was issued by The H2O Project, a Texas-area nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing clean water to people who need it around the world.

Participants are asked to send the funds typically spent on sodas, juices and other drinks to organizations that drill wells in underdeveloped countries.

Focusing on the significance of sacrifice, the middle school-aged youths participated in the project during Lent.

"It was intentionally planned to start the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday to lead into the Lenten experience," said Susan Rabold, youth minister at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

This is the second time a group from the church has participated in the project. The high school youth group participated in the challenge in October, raising \$960.

"It was so beneficial for them that we decided to have the program with our middle school youths," said Rabold.

Additionally, the confirmation class at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro will participate in the program during the coming weeks.

"The H2O Project indicates that a well costs about \$2,500," said Rabold. "I feel that throughout the three programs, we'll meet the goal."

In addition to the fundraising, the project has an educational aspect.

"We do a program on water and social justice issues," Rabold said. "Then we explore this particular issue of communities that don't have clean water."

"My main focus is for them to get clean water. Water is the source of everything."

— Michael Sang

The youths at St. Paul the Apostle Church are specifically raising money to drill a well in Rubet, Kenya — the home village of Michael Sang, a custodian at the church.

"Through Michael they have this connection," said Rabold. "He's very real to the kids."

Sang spoke to the youths about the challenges he faced growing up in a village that didn't have clean water.

"I grew up in a rural area where we had a lot of problems with water," Sang said.

"We had to travel three miles to get water," he said, and even then it was dirty.

When he found out that the youths wanted to raise money to drill a well in his home village, Sang said that it was an answer to his prayers.

"I was overwhelmed and happy," said Sang, who had been looking for a way to give back to his home village.

"My main focus is for them to get clean water," he said. "Water is the source of everything."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail knmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Africa has seen tremendous changes, but some issues remain

AFRICA, from page 1

South Africa," said Jesuit Father Peter Henriot, director of the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection in Zambia's capital, Lusaka.

This October's special Synod of Bishops for Africa will focus on "service, peace and reconciliation and look at the challenges we need to pay attention to," he said.

Pope Benedict XVI is scheduled to present the synod's working document March 19 in Cameroon, on a trip that also includes a visit to Angola.

Bishops planning the October synod have emphasized the need to find concrete ways to apply results of their 1994 meeting "to an Africa thirsting for reconciliation and seeking justice and peace."

In interviews with Catholic News Service, church leaders spoke of how Africa has changed since 1994 and the challenges that remain.

U.S.-born Father Henriot, who has lived in Zambia since the late 1980s, said poor African countries "have become more entwined with globalization" since 1994.

"We have become more influenced by the economic and military concerns of other countries," Father Henriot said.

For example, a structural adjustment program imposed on Zambia by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund "might have made the economy more efficient, but it has no social face," he said.

"We have lower literacy levels, a high AIDS rate and other health concerns," Father Henriot said, noting that such programs led to "curtailed budgets that had a negative impact on hospitals and schools."

"With the global economic crisis, the poor are becoming poorer with factors

such as the price of basic foods in African countries being affected by skyrocketing prices in First World countries," he said.

Structure and success

Some Catholic officials spoke of how African countries are taking more responsibility for helping each other.

"To gain credibility internationally as a democratic continent," African leaders need "to hold each other accountable," said Jesuit Father Anthony Egan, a member of South Africa's Jesuit Institute who specializes in history and ethics.

Since 1994, "there have been strong developments in efforts to combat corruption," Father Egan said, noting that the African Peer Review Mechanism, an African self-monitoring system for member states of the African Union, was set up in 2003.

Although African leaders "have failed in terms of calling (Zimbabwean President Robert) Mugabe to order," there are signs that this reluctance "to be seen attacking a fellow African leader" is changing, he said.

South African Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban, one of three papally appointed presidents of the October synod, said Catholic leaders in many African countries have been coming to South Africa for help with setting up effective justice and peace structures.

Countries such as Sudan, Rwanda, Congo, Ethiopia and Malawi are looking to Catholics in South Africa to show how they recovered from the years of the strict racial segregation system of apartheid.

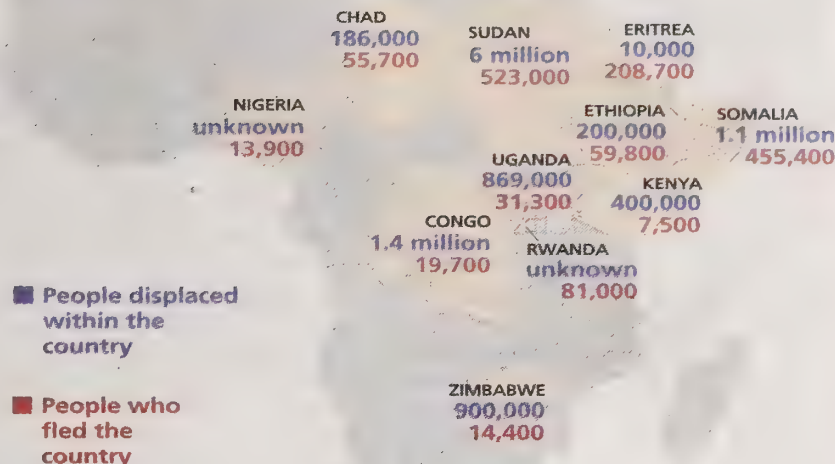
Cardinal Napier told CNS the Pretoria-based Denis Hurley Peace Institute was set up in 2005 to enable the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference to "respond to continental demands."

For instance, he said, in December he and Father Sean O'Leary, director of the institute, traveled to Burundi, which had emerged from years of civil war.

Burundi's church leaders were

Displaced by Conflict

Millions of Africans have fled their homes because of war or other violent conflicts.



Latest estimates from Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Source: www.internal-displacement.org

©2009 CNS

seeking help setting up a truth and reconciliation commission on the lines of the South African commission that dealt with human rights abuses under apartheid.

"We also went to Sudan to share information on how the church in South Africa dealt with issues of justice" during and after apartheid, Cardinal Napier said, noting that "we share stories to enable the church in other countries to strengthen our successes and eliminate our pitfalls in their own work."

Cardinal Napier spoke of other changes to the Catholic Church in Africa.

He said that since the last African synod, the Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa, representing Catholics in nine countries, "has held at least three successful conferences, focusing on self-reliance, strategic planning and good governance."

Other regional bishops' conferences have had similar meetings.

On the continent, interreligious dialogue, especially between Christians and Muslims, "has improved enormously," the cardinal said.

He noted that Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, Nigeria, co-chairs the African Council of Religious Leaders that was established in 2003. He also said social communications have improved with the setting up of Catholic radio stations in many African countries.

'Complicated battles'

The political landscape in many countries has changed, too. Since the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in which an estimated 937,000 people were killed, the country has undergone a "gradual democratization," said Father Egan.

But while the country "has stabilized and its infrastructure has improved dramatically" with the rebuilding of schools and hospitals, "the hostilities and prejudices (between ethnic Tutsis and Hutus) still run deep," said Father Egan.

These prejudices, which "have gone

underground since the shock of the genocide," arise from "a combination of tribalism and tensions over economic resources and power," he said.

In 2002 Angola ended a 27-year civil war in which more than 1.5 million people were killed and, today, relations between the church and state are good, said Father Belmiro Chissengueti, who heads the justice and peace department of the bishops' conference of Angola and Sao Tome.

He said church officials are "pleased that the Angolan president has committed himself" to the process of drafting a new constitution.

"For the first time church and civil society will have a chance to participate in the process," he said.

In Mozambique, a civil war ended in 1992 after a Catholic lay organization, the Sant'Egidio Community, helped broker a peace deal. The community made similar efforts in strife-torn Algeria.

Yet problems remain. Angola is Africa's second-largest oil producer, after Nigeria, and is rich in diamonds, but most Angolans live on less than \$2 a day, and one in four children dies before age 5.

Fighting has intensified in Sudan and threatens the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended more than two decades of civil war that left 2 million dead and displaced 4 million. And since the last synod, Sudan has been accused of genocide in its western region, Darfur.

"These are complicated battles," Father Egan said, noting that in Congo, "a guerrilla movement in the East was destroyed by a combination of the Congolese and Rwandan armies."

Congo is "a complex country that is loosely run," he said. "It's a network of cities and villages and large areas that have little contact with the rest of the world."

The country is rich in resources, including diamonds, "which is why it has so much conflict," Father Egan said.



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Culture Watch

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Moving spiritual memoir tells of novelist's return to Catholicism

REVIEWED BY NANCY L. ROBERTS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"What happens when faith returns? What happens when one goes back to the church of one's childhood?" In this deeply felt spiritual memoir, Anne Rice asks and explores these questions.

The famous novelist, author of "Interview With the Vampire" and many other books, tells how, in 1998 at the age of 57, she came to believe in God again and to re-embrace her Catholic faith.

Raised as a devout Irish Catholic, Rice once seriously considered entering the convent. But as a young adult, she lost her belief in God and was an atheist for nearly 40 years.

Then, in 2005, longtime readers of her many tales of good and evil among vampires and otherworldly beings were amazed when Rice produced a novel, "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt," to critical acclaim. It was followed by another, "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana."

These compelling explorations of Christ's humanity seemed a major departure from Rice's earlier literary path. Yet those earlier vampire stories that had made her name a household word had often contained an implicit moral quest — perhaps a reflection of Rice's perennial pondering on how to live a meaningful life.

In "Called Out of Darkness," Rice reveals the fascinating details of her journey back to faith. For her, practicing her Catholic faith and believing in Jesus as God are essential to living meaningfully.

Rice's narrative starts with her New Orleans girlhood and eloquently traverses the terrain of her Catholic schooling there; the sadness of her mother's drinking; her life in radical Berkeley, Calif., during the hippie era; her 41-year marriage to her beloved high school sweetheart, Stan Rice; the death of their little daughter to leukemia; the joyous birth of their son; the family's return to New Orleans in 1988; and Stan's too-early death in 2002, of brain cancer.

Rice weaves her earliest memories

into a rich tapestry. She uses the full measure of her gifts as a storyteller to evoke the physical, emotional and spiritual world she knew. A fascinating motif is how such "preliterate aesthetic experiences" intermingled with her early "religious experiences" to have a profound impact on her.

Among the latter, she singles out her interaction on the day of her first Communion with a simple hospital "kitchen sister, all in white with an apron, ... telling me with a radiant face that this was a wonderful day because my soul was so pure. She was thin, almost wraithlike, and she made me think of driftwood; but the look of joy on her face and the enthusiasm with which she said these words were breathtaking to me."

Many years later, on a December day in 1998, Rice recalled her "mother's words of decades ago," as she had roused the family to get up for Mass: "He (Jesus Christ) is on that altar. Get up and go."

"I believed that what she'd said so many years ago was precisely the truth," Rice writes. "He was on that altar. And I wanted to go to him, and the impelling emotion was love."

What about the pedophilia scandal, the ban against women priests, the church's official stance regarding gays? "In the moment of surrender, I let go of all the theological or social questions which had kept me from him for countless years. I simply let them go," she writes.

Yet "Called Out of Darkness" is hardly pat. Its pages illuminate the often complex challenges of faith and its practice that Christians face in the modern world. And Rice is refreshingly forthright about her own imperfections, her flaws and her brokenness.

At the end, the reader is left with a feeling of gratitude for Rice's moving account of her faith journey.

Roberts is a professor of journalism and communication at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 15, 2009

March 15, Third Sunday
of Lent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19:8-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel) John 2:13-25

Lent allows opportunities to 'keep it real' with God

BY SHARON PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

After the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 2003, it was revealed that her private correspondence chronicled years of intense feelings of abandonment by God, coinciding with the period of her heroic ministry among India's poorest.

In 2008, the publication of Dorothy Day's personal journals corrected previous misconceptions about her relationship with her daughter Tamar during the early years of the Catholic Worker movement.

In both instances, the candidly private reflections of these publicly holy yet transparently "real" women exposed complex dimensions of their humanity and offered us more profound insights into what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

I recently resumed the discipline of keeping a spiritual journal as an aid to prayer, and I am often struck by my entries' stark truthfulness about both the encouraging and more disheartening aspects of my relationship with God.

The beauty of writing for my eyes only is that I can articulate my hidden issues, ignoble motivations and deeply buried struggles and aspirations — things that God already knows but which I keep

masked from public view and my own view as well. My journal helps me "keep it real."

On the surface, today's readings deal with activities in the public sphere: Israel is given prohibitions regarding idolatry, stealing, killing and coveting; Jerusalem merchants are buying and selling in the Temple precincts; and eyewitnesses of Jesus' signs are quick to believe in his name and follow him.

But all have an underlying private dimension, and as the psalmist reminds us, the "law of the Lord" is first directed toward the conversion of the human heart before it is ever to have consequences for human conduct.

Many of the spiritual practices associated with Lent are external and public — penance services, charitable works and "giving up" certain vices. The Lenten practice most vital to our continuing conversion, however, is scrutinizing and bringing to light the inconsistencies between our private and our public selves.

For Catholic catechumens preparing for baptism, this is ritualized in the "scrutinies" on certain Sundays of Lent. For the baptized, it's "examining one's conscience." But simply put, the practices of Lent give us opportunities to unmask our true selves, "keep it real" and invite Jesus into that personal reality which is already known to God.

Questions:

What are some aspects of my private life that are inconsistent with what I profess publically as a follower of Jesus? What can I do this Lent to "keep it real" and be more honest with myself and with God?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"But Jesus ... did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well" (John 2:25).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8-14

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10; Monday (St. Frances), Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-34, 45-46; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15-21

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25; Monday (Lenten Weekday), 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; Tuesday (St. Patrick), Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday (St. Joseph), 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.

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From rags to riches

'Slumdog' director has knack for revealing the good in people

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Danny Boyle, who won the Academy Award for best director for his helming of the multiple-Oscar-winning "Slumdog Millionaire," has a knack for revealing to audiences the good in his movies' lead characters.

Not that it has been easy to get his films to audiences.

The original U.S. distributor for "Slumdog" closed up shop before the movie was originally set to hit U.S. screens. There was talk about a direct-to-video release of the movie, but Fox Searchlight and Warner Bros. teamed up to distribute the film.

As of Feb. 23 it had been in the top 10 of domestic box office receipts 15 weeks in a row, and its eight Oscar wins, including best picture, were sure to shoot it past \$100 million in U.S. gross ticket sales before the end of February.

Four years ago Boyle did a film called "Millions," and he had a similarly hard time getting a distributor.

Set at Christmas, it was supposed to premiere in December 2004 in Boyle's native England — until exhibitors chose the same date to debut three American movies, all with Christmas themes: "The

Polar Express," "Christmas With the Kranks" and "Surviving Christmas."

So "Millions" debuted in the States in March 2005 and in England that June.

"Millions" was a fable about a Catholic boy with a precocious fascination about the saints who finds a suitcase full of money and tries to make sense of this apparent great gift to him.

While the boy's older brother would prefer making some prudent investments along with the occasional splurge, the boy wants to give it to poor people since he believes the cash was a gift from God.

"Slumdog Millionaire" tells the story of a slum-dwelling Indian lad who is suspected of cheating once he hits it big on Indian television's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

"As the portrait of a man who encounters evil in many forms yet remains fundamentally innocent, and who gains wisdom from all he endures, 'Slumdog Millionaire' is an exhilarating celebration of humane values," wrote John Mulderig, of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, in a review in November.

"Slumdog" received a classification of A-III — adults — for "beating and torture, fleeting rear nudity, crime and



CNS PHOTO BY LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

Director Danny Boyle poses with "Slumdog Millionaire" actors Azharuddin Ismail and Rubina Ali at the Governors Ball after the 81st Academy Awards in Hollywood Feb. 22. The children, who live in a slum in Mumbai, India, played leading roles in the film.

prostitution themes, underage drinking, brief scatological humor and occasional rough and crude language."

Boyle, in a 2005 interview with Catholic News Service, said even in his films with more severe themes there are moments of tenderness.

His last film before "Slumdog" was the 2007 movie "Sunshine," in which his characters are on a mission to the sun and meet, as Boyle called it, "the source of all being" before the closing credits.

In the harrowing 1996 drug drama "Trainspotting," the main character, once a heroin addict, has escaped the drug subculture, and the dying junkie friend to whom he loans money understands his transformation.

In 2002's "28 Days Later," Brendan Gleeson's character knows he's got only 10 seconds to say goodbye to his daughter and manages to do so despite the gravity of the situation.

"So I feel the films are full of tenderness in a way," Boyle said.

Boyle was educated by the Salesians in England. Although he called himself a nonpracticing Catholic in the CNS interview, he acknowledged what was positive in his Catholic upbringing.

"What my mum brought me up to believe, and I still believe and I've carried with me, ... is that you have to have faith in people," he said.

"And that often takes a leap of the imagination, because it's often a gulf that you have to jump, especially in the modern world where people are so careful and so cynical, and when you have faith, goodness comes from that," he continued.

"That's my spiritual network. ... I've always tried to behave like that," he said.

Boyle told CNS he had no patience with directors who act like "monsters" on

the film set, "and the films come out and they have humanist themes, and I can't stand that. They're hypocrites, really."

David Schaefer, a film professor at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, said in a Feb. 23 telephone interview with CNS from Singapore that there are Catholic themes in "Slumdog" an audience would detect.

"The whole element of social justice is what the film focuses on all the way through thematically — the effect of poverty," he said. "In some ways, the game show, the outsourcing job Jamal (the main character) is working on is possibly a way of getting out of that (poverty)."

It also illustrates "the horrors that the children have to endure — and, clearly, the exploitation, the brutal interrogation that Jamal undergoes at the hands of his police interrogators. All of these are very social justice-oriented themes. If you would see it (the situation), you would want to change it," Schaefer said.

Boyle in the 2005 interview noted that "Millions" contained humor, "but it's a generous humor. It's not a nasty, cynical kind of humor. We tried to depict everybody in a generous way."

"So much modern humor is based on savagery, actually, and I'm guilty of plenty of it myself in some of the movies I've made," he said. "But there's a life spirit in this which I love and makes me really proud of the film."

He told CNS he wants his movies to be "honest and vivid ... I don't want people to look at them objectively from a distance."

"I want people to feel drawn into the (film's) world, and the color of the world, so that they feel hot when they're watching the film, so that they feel the film pulsing through them," he said.

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of March, here is a look at the first cloistered community in North Carolina: Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child.



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Carmelite nuns are pictured on the day of the first Mass celebrated at the Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child in Asheville March 19, 1956. Pictured are (from left) Sister Mary Genevieve of the Holy Face, Sister Mary Anne of St. Bartholomew, Sister Mary Veronica of the Holy Face, Sister Mary Magdalen of Jesus, Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart, Mother Bernadette of Our Lady of Lourdes and Sister Mary Patricia of the Nativity.

In 1956, six Carmelite nuns of the Strict Observance and one postulant arrived in Asheville to establish the first cloistered community in North Carolina. The Carmelite nuns took solemn vows of obedience, chastity and poverty, and they observed strict papal enclosure. Spending their time in prayer, work and penance, the nuns lived austere lives sleeping on mattresses made of straw and fasting frequently. They had also a strong devotion to perpetual adoration — 24 hours a day, one or two nuns prayed before the Blessed Sacrament in their chapel. They modeled their lives of contemplation on the example of Mary the Blessed Virgin, who "... kept all these words, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

Horarium (daily schedule)

5:15 a.m. — Rise
5:30-7 a.m. — Little Hours of the Divine Office and mental prayer
7 a.m. — Conventual Mass and thanksgiving
8 a.m. — Coffee
8:30-11:45 a.m. — Manual labor
11:45 a.m. — Examination of conscience, dinner, recreation
1:30-2 p.m. — Silence. Retire to cell or to assigned task
2-3 p.m. — Vespers and spiritual reading
3 p.m. — Adoration prayer before crucifix in memory of Christ expiring on the cross
3-6 p.m. — Manual labor
6-7 p.m. — Mental prayer in choir, rosary and novena prayers
7 p.m. — Evening collation (light meal)
8 p.m. — Compline and night prayers
9 p.m. — Grand silence in cells
11:45 p.m. — Midnight Divine Office (Matins and Lauds)

March 15, 1956: The nuns arrived in Asheville from the Carmelite cloistered convent (also known as the Carmel) of the Little Flower in Coopersburg, Pa., at the request of Raleigh Bishop Vincent S. Waters. The new Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child consisted of 40 acres and a 60-room frame structure formerly a hospital. The Sisters of Mercy novices helped prepare the building for their arrival.

March 19, 1956: Bishop Waters celebrated the first Mass at the Carmel on St. Joseph's feast day.

March 1967: Carmelite nuns from Asheville and Coopersburg established a new Carmel of the Ancient Observance in Durham at the Carmel of the Most Holy Incarnation. The event followed the withdrawal of the Discalced Carmelite nuns who once occupied the Carmel but left due to a lack of vocations.

1970: The Carmelites of the Ancient Observance withdrew from the Carmel in Durham, with two of the nuns returning to the Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child in Asheville.

Summer 1978: With only six nuns and two postulants remaining, the Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child was suppressed due to the infirm and aging nuns. Some returned to Coopersburg, while others transferred to the Carmel in Whapeton, N.D.

1979: The property of the Carmel of St. Joseph and the Holy Child officially transferred to the Carmel in Coopersburg. At this time, the Carmelites decided to sell the property.

Oct. 17, 1984: Fire destroyed the Asheville Carmel.

Aug. 3, 1987: The Carmel property was sold, with the proceeds being divided equally between the Carmels in Coopersburg and Whapeton.

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Full job descriptions are available by sending a resume' to Kathy McDaniel at St. Andrew's, 631 N Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA 24016 or email: kmcdaniel@standrewsroanoke.org.

COUNSELING SUPERVISOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES – ASHEVILLE, NC



The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville has an immediate opening for a bilingual Regional Counseling Supervisor. This is a bilingual position requiring fluency in Spanish. Previous experience in a Spanish-only therapeutic setting is required. A LCSW licensure is required and three years of post-graduate counseling experience. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This position requires regular travel to Yancey and Burke counties.

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Application Process: Qualified applicants should complete an application which is available at www.walsingham.org and send a resume to the President at mjo@walsingham.org, or President, Walsingham Academy, 1100 Jamestown Road/P. O. Box 8702, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8702.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Walking with Christ

Catechists explore social teaching, Jesus' call at bilingual workshop

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — "Tell me, in one word, what you got out of today's workshop," Jesuit Father William Ameche asked the workshop attendees.

It was part of the concluding prayer service of "Come and See as We Walk Together II," a bilingual workshop held at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Feb. 21.

From the church pews came the responses in English and Spanish: respect, joy, love, communion and compassion, among others. Father Ameche, a Hispanic minister in the Asheville Vicariate, translated the responses.

Although the program was open to anyone, most of the 47 attendees were parish catechists. Participants received certificates of attendance toward the diocesan Catechist Recognition/Certification Process. The workshop is one in a series in the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates.

Participants attended sessions on topics including Catholic social teaching, catechesis, history of the Mass and the Lord's Prayer.

During the opening prayer service, Father Ameche said the workshop's attendance is a reflection of the Catholic

Church in the Diocese of Charlotte: 50 percent or more are Spanish-speaking.

He asked everyone to change places and sit beside someone who didn't speak his or her language.

At Mass, he added, it's "one body of Christ, eating the Body of Christ."

In her presentation, Ann Stowe, pastoral associate at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill, used Scripture passages and papal encyclicals to discuss Catholic social teaching.

Amos 2:6b-7a was quoted: "Because they sell the just man for silver and the poor man for a pair of sandals. They trample the heads of the weak into the dust and force the lowly out of the way."

"Whatever separates me from God, separates me from my neighbor," said Myriam Gonzalez, a catechist at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, after hearing this passage.

Micah 2:1-3, which speaks of "those who plan iniquity ... covet fields and seize them; houses, and they take them," was also read.

Stowe commented that this Scripture, written 2,006 years ago, "sounds like today's evening news."

"This affects everyone," she said. "What should motivate us to do justice?

We're called to respond with justice because of what God has done for us.

"When I realize what God has done for me, I realize what a blessed person I am," Gonzalez said.

"We need to look into our faith and see what God is calling us to," Stowe said. "When we teach about that, we need to ask people to do some discernment about that."

Renee Pierce, catechist at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, recalled a recent news story about a man who froze to death in his home after his electric service was turned off because of unpaid bills.

"How could people let that 93-year-old man freeze to death, for no one in that neighborhood to notice?" she asked, her voice breaking.

"That he had \$600,000 and didn't pay his bills means his mind was not right," Gonzalez said, "but nobody was interacting with him to notice that."

"I think you hit the nail on the head — we have to look," Stowe said.

In "Jesus: Heart of Catechesis" in the afternoon, Elizabeth Girton, faith formation director at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, pointed out that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke emphasize Jesus' humanity; John and the letters of Paul emphasize his divinity.

"You need the whole picture," Girton said. "The divine became human so that the human might become divine (by adoption)."

Knowing who Jesus is involves understanding that he is both human and divine. Girton spoke of various heresies that challenged this understanding and of church councils that condemned those heresies. For example, Gnosticism, in the first century, said that Jesus was only divine: he looked human but couldn't be truly human.

"We still see that," Girton said. "People don't believe Jesus went through the same things we do."

St. Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, refuted Gnosticism.

"Everything you do should be Christ-centered," Girton said. "All of us are called to be catechists."

"The documents of the Second Vatican Council call us all to evangelize, to take Christ into every part of our lives, wherever life takes us. If you don't see the immensity of that call, you're missing an important part of that call," she said.

In his morning presentation, Father Ameche discussed the roots of the Mass. Speaking about the presentation after



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Attendees exchange farewells at the conclusion of "Come and See As We Walk Together II," a bilingual workshop held at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Feb. 21.

the program ended, he said that Vatican II returned to some originals, such as using the vernacular language.

"Jesus spoke the language people knew," he said.

The Last Supper, he explained, was a seder (a Passover meal and prayer service), with salt water representing the tears the Jews had shed in slavery and bitter herbs recalling the bitterness of slavery. The bread was unleavened; so the hosts used at Mass are unleavened bread to remind us of that seder.

However, Father Ameche said, Jesus broke with Jewish tradition by taking the bread and saying, "This is my body." Even Judas received it as a sign of how much God loved him. That's very important."

Those at the Last Supper ate lamb. "Then, after the lamb, the wine — a sign of liberation," Father Ameche said. "Again, Jesus breaks with tradition, saying, 'This is my blood of the new covenant.'"

In the old covenant, Father Ameche added, "the Jews sacrificed animals to receive blessings from God; it was what they did. Jesus sacrificed himself, which saves. The word 'sacrifice' means 'to make holy.'"

"We have the cross," Father Ameche said, "to remind us that God is always loving."

In the afternoon, the Hispanic attendees gathered in St. Eugene Church's day chapel for a stress reduction and relaxation exercise that Father Ameche learned from a nun while he was working in Mexico. "It's helping them manage their lives and be healthier," he said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Diocese of Raleigh, NC, a growing, vibrant diocese, is seeking candidates for the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

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Requirements include a master's degree in pastoral ministry, theology or related fields, and a minimum of five years ministry experience. Bilingual skills (English and Spanish) preferred.

Interested candidates are invited to send a cover letter and resume to: Sr. Rose Marie Adams, IHM, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A response to Nancy Pelosi

Pro-choice Catholic legislators give scandal to faithful, set dangerous precedence

In a recent article in The Catholic News & Herald, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi is quoted as saying, "I have a sort of serenity" about receiving Communion even though her position on abortion differs from that of the church.

"The church sees it another way, and I respect that," she said, adding, however, that she hoped the U.S. bishops would not use the refusal of holy Communion as a way of punishing Catholic politicians who don't heed church teachings on abortion.

"Think of that word Communion, that which brings us all together as Christians, as Catholics," Pelosi said.

Denying a Catholic the Eucharist "would be something that would shatter that union," she said.

Assuming these words accurately reflect her understanding of church teaching and practice, I am deeply concerned and moved with paternal and pastoral charity to help her and others with the same misconceptions to correct these false notions, beginning with the church's teaching on abortion.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly teaches in paragraph 2271:

"Since the first century the church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and is unchangeable."

In a television interview on "Meet the Press" in August 2008, Pelosi said that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on when life begins.

However, the catechism admits no such ambiguity.

Throughout history, individual members of the Catholic Church may have been confused over this issue; individuals who claim to be "Catholic" have even defended abortion.

But the church has never been confused, nor has she vacillated from the clear and simple truth.

In fact, the catechism readily admits that "this teaching has not changed and is unchangeable."

Abortion is always evil and can never be morally legitimate. And "because abortion is intrinsically evil, the church continues to promote the truth and defend the innocent.

Clearly, then, there is no confusion in the church's teaching. Pelosi's words, however, raise the relevant questions:

"Can a person still claim to be an 'ardent, practicing Catholic' while defending abortion? Can one maintain his or her identity as a practicing Catholic while holding positions contrary to the teaching of that church?"

In other words, "Is there really such a thing as a 'pro-choice Catholic'?"

No. It seems there is a fallacy that one can hold positions contrary to the clear and unchanging teaching of the

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



church and, at the same time, maintain unity with the Catholic Church.

Nancy Pelosi is correct when she states in her interview with Tom Brokaw on "Meet the Press" that it is "true that God has given us, each of us, a free will and a responsibility to answer for our actions."

We are indeed free to practice the Catholic faith. No one is under any obligation to remain a Catholic.

Yet, by definition, a Catholic is one who holds what the church teaches by adhering to it "with religious assent" (Cf. CCC 891-892).

To depart from the teachings of the church is to depart from the church; to break communion with the clear and unchanging doctrine of the church is to break communion with the church.

And to break communion with the church is to break communion not merely with her teaching, but also with her sacraments.

Consequently, when one breaks communion with the church, one forfeits the right to receive holy Communion.

Thankfully, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, head of the Vatican's highest court, Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, has recently clarified and reiterated this truth.

He said in an interview with LifeSiteNews.com, "There's not a question that a Catholic who publicly, and after admonition, supports pro-abortion legislation is not to receive holy Communion and is not to be given holy Communion."

He then added, "The church's law is very clear. The person who persists publicly in grave sin is to be denied holy Communion, and it [canon law] doesn't say that the bishop shall decide this. It's an absolute."

Why?

The archbishop stated, "The holy Eucharist, the most sacred reality of our life in the church, has to be protected against sacrilege.

At the same time, individuals have to be protected for the sake of their own salvation from committing one of the gravest sins, namely to receive holy Communion unworthily."

Archbishop Burke, therefore, mentions two principal reasons for

Extreme compromise

Unless all life is protected, all life is in danger

Newly-elected abortion advocates often try to paint their support for Roe v. Wade and its companion case, Doe v. Bolton, as mainstream. Some even think that the decisions constitute a "compromise" position on the divisive issue of abortion.

After all, they say, our current national policy on abortion allows a woman to have a child if she wants, and to abort the child if she wants.

But Roe and Doe are about as far away from a "compromise" as you can find. The decisions allow for abortion throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy, and do not recognize any right of the unborn child to be spared death by abortion.

With a nation divided about abortion, one might think that under a "compromise" solution one could find some reason to protect at least some unborn children.

But in Roe and Doe, one searches in vain for any situation in which an unborn child is protected.

As the University of Detroit Law Review pointed out, "The Supreme Court's decisions ... allowed abortion on demand throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy" (Paul B. Linton, Enforcement of State Abortion Statutes after Roe: A State-by-State Analysis, Vol. 67, Issue 2, Winter 1990).

In this framework, every unborn baby is disposable. Every. That's hardly a "compromise" position.

"Leave it up to the woman to decide" sounds to many like a fair compromise. But this position completely destroys equality before the law, because it constitutes a complete removal of protection from the child.

The lives of unborn children who are wanted and carried to term do not have any more protection from the law than the lives of unborn children who are unwanted and carried to the abortionist.

The lives of the wanted are protected

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



only by their "wantedness," which, of course, can be subject to change at any time. As far as the law is concerned, they are all non-persons, regardless of circumstance. That's hardly a "compromise."

A "compromise" usually, and by definition, allows some accommodation to both sides in the dispute. But current abortion policy allows no accommodation to the claims that innocent human life makes upon us.

The more you know about the Roe and Doe decisions, the clearer this becomes. In fact, the Gallup polling company, in an extensive analysis of the opinions of Americans on abortion, admits that the level of support in surveys for Roe v. Wade is lower if more information about the decision itself is offered in the question, and higher if less information is offered.

These are important points to bring up in communicating with pro-abortion elected officials.

In the film "Judgment at Nuremberg," one of those responsible for the Holocaust says that he "never thought it would go that far," and was told that it "went that far" as soon as a single innocent life was taken.

There is no room for compromising about human life. Permitting one life to be destroyed is already extreme.

Unless we're all protected, we're all in danger.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

pro-abortion legislators to abstain from holy Communion.

First, since they persist publicly in grave sin, they give scandal to the faithful.

They set a dangerous precedence that can lead others to assume that they too can hold positions contrary to church teaching and remain in communion with the church.

Secondly, the archbishop reminds us of St. Paul's own words found in his first epistle to the Corinthians:

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord ... For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself" (I Cor. 11:27,29).

In light of these two serious realities, I, as a fellow Catholic and a

pastor, urge Pelosi and others who share her perspective to:

1) abstain from holy Communion for the sake of their salvation, as well as for those who may follow their example; 2) reconsider their support for abortion; 3) make a good integral confession by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation; and 4) publicly renounce their current position of support for abortion.

In this holy season of Lent, we are encouraged to take bold advantage of the divine mercy our Lord offers us without hesitation or reservation.

Let us pray that Nancy Pelosi, as well as other public servants who claim to be Catholic yet hold dissonant positions, may one day share true communion with the Catholic Church.

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincoln.

Evangelization's total commitment

Effort is a witness to a relationship with Christ

I'm standing at the bank counter on Friday afternoon waiting for the clerk to process my deposit. Oh, no, here it comes, that annoying question: "So, have any plans for the weekend?"

Perhaps this sounds like a fairly innocuous question to you, but think about it. Why every Friday afternoon does a kid half my age, often a different kid every week, who has absolutely no interest in what I'm doing this weekend ask me that question?

How do you answer a question like that? It seems a little personal. Well, I amazed myself the other day as I took a deep breath, groaned inwardly and prepared to say, "Not really," when I suddenly smiled and blurted out, "I'm going to Mass."

"Oh, that's nice," responded the clerk politely.

And I, deciding my statement needed an encore, said, "and to a movie."

He then proceeded to tell me he was taking his two little ones to see "The Tale of Despereaux," and all in all the conversation wasn't so annoying after all.

What prompted my revelation? A sudden visitation by the Holy Spirit? A desire to stump my young clerk?

Actually, it was a three-day mission

my parish offered during the week. The topic was "evangelization," a word we Catholics hear fairly often but sometimes shy away from, thinking evangelization has something to do with taking leaflets door to door to convert our neighbors.

No, fear not, Catholic evangelization is much different — and much better — than proselytizing. It's a total commitment — it's called witness, and you do it with your life. You live it.

So one of the first questions our mission director, Deacon Tom Gornick from the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., asked was, "What do you say when people ask you what you're doing this weekend?"

You may tell your friends about your kid's Little League game or the flower bed you're putting in. How often do you add "and I'm going to Mass"?

Here's another: When people visit your home, do they see religious images, maybe a crucifix? Any Catholic periodicals on the coffee table?

How about Ash Wednesday? Do you go to the morning Mass and promptly wipe your ashes off so that you don't have to explain to your co-worker, no, that's not dirt?

One year our parish moms' group

For the Journey

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adopted crucifixes, not little pieces of jewelry but large crosses, each with an image of a crucified man, hanging from a leather strap, and they wore them each day of Lent — to work, shopping, everywhere. That's witness.

One man at the mission remarked that he often says the rosary on an airplane but never takes his beads out of his pocket. Now maybe he will.

Here's how Pope Paul VI described it in "On Evangelization in the Modern World": "Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers."

Of course, a commitment to witnessing negates being a curmudgeon, I remind myself. St. Francis of Assisi said it this way, "Preach the Gospel always. If necessary, use words."

In "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), Pope Benedict XVI spoke of an encounter that changes our lives: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person."

That person, of course, is Jesus, and if you've met him, people will notice. You won't have to say a thing.

Blessings in disguise

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



Had it not been for brave firemen who crawled along a narrow catwalk in the attic of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago and fought the blaze despite blinding smoke, the cathedral would have burned to the ground.

A fairly recent renovation closed the cathedral for some time, but the hearts of those involved in the fire and its aftermath were anything but closed.

During the fire, an associate pastor was courageous in rescuing the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle.

When the firemen who fought the fire returned for inspection, the pastor asked who was the one primarily responsible for saving the cathedral. They all pointed away from themselves to each other.

As they left, one fireman paused in front of the altar and made the sign of the cross.

When the congregation of Kenwood United Church of Christ sent a donation to the cathedral, some wondered why a Protestant church would contribute.

The pastor replied, "It's God house. ... We're serving the same God."

A news columnist critical of the church wrote that although he may sound like an atheist, he believes the cathedral is a sacred home to its parishioners. As a result of his column, donations poured in.

These stories teach us that hidden blessings often accompany catastrophic events.

The word "profane" means to be outside the temple. In today's world many people are not only outside the temple but have no respect for it.

For them a church is nothing more than another building. Sunday worship is seen as the religion of the weak.

Stories surrounding the fire at Holy Name Cathedral are beautiful reminders of the deep respect for the sacred that lurks in our hearts: a priest risking his life for the Eucharist; a fireman blessing himself; a columnist lauding the respect of churchgoers; other Christian communities contributing out of respect for each other.

The word "respect" means to be in awe of another and also to maintain a respectful distance from him or her. For those firemen, the cathedral wasn't just another building; it was an awesome temple of God.

The fireman's sign of the cross was a sign of respectful distance in the presence of an awesome God. The columnist reflected awe for those who have awe for God, and Christian communities helping each other is the utmost in mutual respect.

The Holy Name Cathedral fire may have been catastrophic, but a closer look reveals many blessings in disguise.

Two interesting signs of the times

Church often impeded in its spiritual, liturgical, apostolic outreach

Two news stories crossed my desk on the same day recently. Their headlines proclaim interesting signs of the times in the life of the Catholic Church in the United States.

First, this headline on a Catholic News Service story: "Former Pittsburgh Catholic church being converted into mausoleum." Then I saw a New York Times headline: "Plan to Turn Catholic Schools to Charters," and that story was accompanied by this inset header: "Bloomberg is described as Noah with a life preserver."

Mausoleum? Life preserver?

Death and rescues from death make interesting news at any time but applied to institutions of the church they raise signs that should be read carefully by religious believers who should know that although they cannot predict the future, they can choose the future they want to have.

Become the change you want to see occur, said Gandhi. Become the leaders you say your country needs, I tell my students in a leadership course I'm teaching this semester at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

I'm intrigued by the mausoleum image. It is so heavy, grim, gray and immobile. It is just the opposite of the image Jesus conveyed to those who would follow him.

He launched a movement. Sadly, many who think of themselves as his followers have permitted it to become a monument.

Institutional immobility, unmarketable real estate, obsolete rectories, empty convents, excess classroom capacity, not to mention ceremonial trappings and honorific titles, are making us irrelevant in cities and towns that desperately need what the church has to offer.

Weighed down with the physical, we are impeded in our spiritual, liturgical and apostolic outreach.

The Pittsburgh mausoleum, the former St. Mary Church in Lawrenceville, is serving an admirable purpose — providing "880 crypts and 712 niches for cremated remains along the interior walls, plus a commitment chapel in the former sanctuary with seating for up to 200 people."

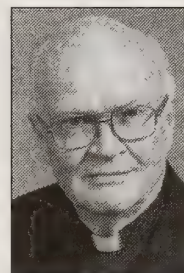
It is also providing, for those who have eyes to see, an image that serves to remind that there is need for creative, imaginative, pastoral leadership to guide the "movement" of word and sacrament toward those who need it, especially the young.

Then we have the image of "Noah with a life preserver." He is Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

He can, according to the Times,

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



"convert four Roman Catholic schools singled out for closing into public charter schools, an 11th-hour lifeline meant to preserve the education provided in the buildings and stave off potential overcrowding in city schools."

It was Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio who, in unveiling the plan with Mayor Bloomberg at a city hall news conference, recalled the story of Noah's ark.

He referred to the "flood situation" facing the church financially. He compared the mayor to Noah, and said: "He's throwing out a life preserver and I'm going to grab it."

The city would lease the buildings from the diocese. There would be no religious instruction or religious symbols in the newly constituted charter schools.

There are legal, political and educational hurdles to be cleared as the negotiations between the diocese and the city proceed.

There is also a lot of planning to be done by the diocese as it looks ahead. A generous supporter of Catholic education in Baltimore once remarked to me, "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

More rain will surely fall over Catholic institutions. More thought has to be given to the design and construction of new arks to keep us afloat.



"And The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us." — John 1:14

*Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to
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Sunday, March 29 12:30pm – 6:30pm

Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at Exit 26)

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Dr. William Thierfelder



Mr. Paul McNulty

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Jugis, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College; and Seminarian, Mr. Paul McNulty.

SCHEDULE -

- 12:30 pm - Arrival and Welcome activity
- 1 pm - Greeting by Abbot Placid and Dr. Thierfelder
- 1:45 pm - Mix & Mingle; Vocation tables; Snacks
- 2:15 pm - Praise and Worship music
 - Witness Talk for Youth: Vocation as a young student
 - Witness Talk for Chaperones
- 2:45 pm - Youth Activity
- 3 pm - Witness talk for youth

- 3:30 pm - Quiet Transition to Basilica
- 4 pm - Witness Talk by Seminarian Mr. Paul McNulty
- 4:15 pm - Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; Bishop's Address
- 4:45 pm - Eucharistic Procession
- 5:30 pm - Vespers with Bishop Jugis and the Monks of Belmont Abbey
- 6 pm - Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
- 6:15 pm - Closing Remarks

Information at www.GoEucharist.com



From a Baptist boy to a Catholic priest

*Father John Putnam
shares his conversion
to Catholicism*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: This is the third in
a series of conversion stories.*

CHARLOTTE — He was raised Southern Baptist in western North Carolina, now he's a priest serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

As a child, Father John Putnam went to church sporadically with his family.

His father was born in the North Carolina mountains and raised at the Baptist orphanage in Thomasville. His mother was raised Methodist but

See **CONVERT**, page 5

Celebrating the first shepherd

*Bishop Begley's legacy,
spirit endure in Diocese
of Charlotte*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The diocese's first shepherd may no longer be with us, but his legacy still shines throughout North Carolina.

March 12 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of

See **SHEPHERD**, page 8

'Let the children come to me'



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Children kneel before the Blessed Sacrament during adoration with Father Timothy Reid at St. Ann Church in Charlotte March 4.

*Children's adoration
teaches reverence for
Blessed Sacrament*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In Luke 18:16, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

This Bible passage illustrates the importance of encouraging the development of an intimate relationship with Christ from an early age.

In response to that call, one Charlotte parish has started a unique catechetical service for children to encourage devotion to Christ in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

For the past year-and-a-half, Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church, has been holding eucharistic adoration services for children.

Margaret Kennedy, a

See **ECHARIST**, page 12



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

People protest outside the White House around the time President Barack Obama signed an executive order March 9 reversing the Bush administration limits on embryonic stem cell research. The small protest was led by the Christian Defense Coalition.

Disregarding values

*Cardinal says new Obama stem cell
policy favors politics over ethics*

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's executive order reversing the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research represents "a sad victory of politics over science and ethics," Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said shortly after the March 9 signing of the

order at the White House.

The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities was among Catholic, pro-life and other leaders who criticized the reversal, which Obama had promised during his campaign.

Speaking in the East Room

See **STEM CELLS**, page 7

Youths in Action

*Teens fast for poverty; Lenten
pilgrimage to inspire*

| PAGE 4

Fighting to overcome

*Africa's poverty, culture
counter church's efforts*

| PAGE 9

Culture Watch

*Media's failures in covering
religion; Catholic poet*

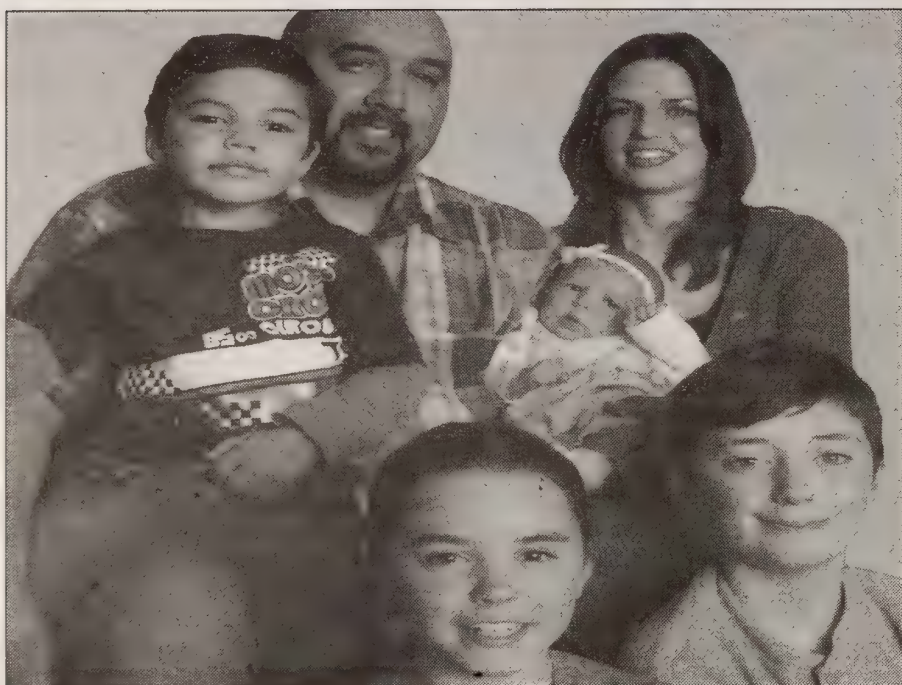
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

TO JOIN A FAMILY OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI SIERRAS

Heidi and Dan Sierras are shown with their four children, Logan, 3, 5-week-old Eleanor, Kayla, 8, and Ethan, 11, in their home in Ceres, Calif., Feb. 12. Heidi Sierras will be in a group of five — representing different areas of the world — who will be baptized by Pope Benedict XVI April 11 during the Easter Vigil at St. Peter's Basilica.

California woman to be baptized by pope at Easter vigil

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This year, parishioners at St. Joseph Church in Modesto, Calif., are more excited than usual about Easter.

That's because 40 of them, along with their pastor, Father Joseph Illo, will be in Rome during Holy Week, and one person in their group, Heidi Sierras, will be baptized by the pope during the Easter Vigil at St. Peter's Basilica.

Sierras will be in a group of five — representing different areas of the world — who will be baptized by Pope Benedict XVI April 11. The 29-year-old mother of four will represent North America.

"It's hard to put into words how I feel," Sierras said March 2. "I feel honored. It's an amazing opportunity."

Father Illo said the whole parish was caught up in the excitement.

"If she were a different type of person, they might be envious," he added, but because she is so nice they are glad for her.

Getting picked for an event of this magnitude falls somewhat in the "it's all about who you know" category, because each year, just in the United States alone, tens of thousands of people are baptized during the Easter Vigil.

Sierras learned of the possibility of the papal baptism more than a year ago after a St. Joseph Church parishioner who frequently visits Rome found out from a friend of a friend of a Vatican official that there was an open slot for a North American representative to be baptized by the pope in 2009.

The parishioner gave this news to Father Illo, who in turn asked the director of the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation

of Adults program to choose someone. The participant would have to stay in RCIA for an additional year.

After several letters were exchanged between the parish and the Vatican, Sierras was told it was official.

Sierras, who had no religious upbringing, began attending Mass with her husband, who is Catholic, about three years ago. When she started asking him questions about the Catholic faith, he advised her to take part in RCIA at St. Joseph Church. Now, after more than two years in the program, her questions have been more than answered.

"I have no doubts this is what I want to do," she said.

This year's Easter Vigil at St. Peter's Basilica would be, said Father Illo, "an affirmation of my priesthood" in which he will have the opportunity to "almost be a collaborator with the pope and the RCIA process — working together to bring people to the sacraments."

Sierras plans to leave for Rome April 2 with her husband and two of their children. The group of parishioners joining them has obtained tickets to many of the papal liturgies during Holy Week. Sierras, along with others to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, will attend morning catechesis sessions and afternoon tours of churches.

In the meantime, she has already talked a fair amount about her faith to friends, family members and co-workers.

"It's incredible," she said. "My weakness is that I tend to be shy but now I have a good opportunity to evangelize."

Bishops join call for U.S. to support long-term development in Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has joined a broad group of religious, justice, and relief and development organizations in calling upon President Barack Obama to assist and protect vulnerable Iraqis and pursue efforts that lead to long-term development in war-torn Iraq.

In a March 4 letter to the White House, 44 organizations asked the president to mandate that "civilian agencies take the lead in formulating and implementing an effective humanitarian and development strategy."

Stephen Colecchi, director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace, said the letter's call parallels one aspect of the U.S. bishops' 2006 statement seeking a responsible transition in Iraq and the eventual withdrawal of American military forces from the country.

A key to Iraq's development is

creating a stable country where all Iraqis are safe and refugees — both Christian and non-Christian — can return to their communities, Colecchi said March 9.

The two-page letter urged Obama to ask Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to lead an interagency effort within the federal government to develop a strategy that includes goals for humanitarian efforts and human development as well as ways to measure how those goals are being met.

The organizations placed particular emphasis on establishing programs that would allow Iraq's 2.5 million refugees and another 2 million internally displaced people to return to their communities and live in safety.

The letter also sought aid for Iraq's neighboring countries where refugees have fled and a commitment to resettle the most vulnerable Iraqi refugees in the United States.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The 17th Annual United in Prayer Day will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. W., March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program will focus on the topic of centering prayer and will include a showing of a DVD featuring Father Thomas Keating. This event is free and open to the public. Participants should bring a bag lunch and drink. For more information, contact Becky Hannah at (828) 667-2799 or e-mail becky.hannah@gmail.com. Or contact Sande Donecho at (828) 697-7420 or e-mail sdonecho@bellsouth.net.

ARDEN — A Women's Lenten Program on the theme, "Staying at the Cross" will be held at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., March 28. Stations of the Cross, led by local secular Franciscan women, will take place at 9 a.m., with registration at 9:45 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m. with guest speakers and small group discussions. A soup and salad luncheon will be provided and door prizes will be awarded. All women are welcome; there is no cost to attend. To RSVP, contact Marcia Torres at (828) 697-1235 or e-mail johnandmarciatorres@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Solemn Vespers of Lent will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the Church and completes the Divine Service for that day. The Evening vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 15, Father John Putnam gives the reflection on the third word, "Woman, Behold Thy Son." On March 22, Father Christopher Roux gives the reflection on the fourth word, "My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken me?" For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — A Lenten Day of Reflection for deaf, hard of hearing, and their friends and family will be presented by Mercy Sister Rita Marie Pickhinke at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sister Pickhinke has worked with deaf people since 1964 and is the founder of the program, Catholic Ministry to Deaf People, Inc. She holds degrees in teaching in special education and deaf education. This event is free and lunch will be provided. To register, go to www.stmatthewcatholic.org. For more information, contact Jo Ann Van Camp at jvcxtwo@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be March 21 on the topic, "Manifestation of God's Love: Economy." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiette's are now accepting applications for the Gene

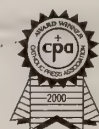
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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MARCH 13, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 19

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Home-care workers need support, protection, says Vatican nuncio

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Women and immigrants who provide home care to the sick and elderly need support and protection from exploitation, said the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore said very little of the funding spent on medical research and providing assistance to the weak and ill goes to supporting home-care workers.

"Studies have shown that community and home-based caregivers actually experience more stress than medical personnel; so better support must be provided for these persons, particularly women and older persons who are caregivers," he said.

The archbishop made his remarks in a March 9 address to a meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women. Commission members gathered March 2-13 at the United Nations to consider

how to promote an equal sharing of the responsibilities between men and women in offering supportive care, including the context of HIV and AIDS.

Archbishop Migliore said the Vatican was particularly concerned about poor and immigrant women who have been responding to the market demands of providing home-based care for children, the sick, the elderly and severely disabled people.

In some parts of the world, he said, increasing demands for supportive care have meant many caregivers, especially women, "are found in situations of vulnerability due to nonregularization, social isolation, difficult working conditions and at times exploitation of every kind."

Governments should recognize that family-based and privately funded in-home care saves them money and takes some of the pressure off in providing public facilities, he said.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

STONEVILLE — The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province will host a discernment retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., March 20-22. The retreat is free and open to all men who are interested in a weekend of reflection and peaceful recreation. Come and discern where God is calling you, pray and celebrate the Eucharist, and enjoy the beauty of a 140-acre wooded reserve. For more information, call Father Brian Smail at (800) 677-7788.

GREENSBORO — A screening of the documentary, "Love Lived on Death Row," will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., March 26, 7-9 p.m. The documentary tells the true story of the Syrian sibling's journey from hate and anger to love and forgiveness for their father who was sentenced to death for the 1990 murder of their mother. A panel discussion will follow the screening. For more information, call Jeannine Martin (336) 294-4696 ext. 225.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — An ecumenical Lenten worship service will be held at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., each Wednesday during Lent from 12-12:30 p.m. The reflection will be given by a local preacher and an offering will be taken for a local charity. It is free and open to the public. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be served following the service. For more information, contact Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

MOUNT HOLLY — A special Mass and wreath laying ceremony in honor of the Irish Catholic immigrants, who founded St. Joseph Church, will be held at the church, March 17 at 10 a.m. A wreath will be placed on the grave of the first Pastor, Father T.J. Cronin and flags on the graves of all those who are buried in the cemetery. Father Joseph Pearce, State chaplain for the North Carolina Ancient Order of Hibernians will celebrate Mass in the church. For more information, call Joseph Dougherty at (704) 942-6345 or e-mail jdougherty09436@roadrunner.com.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 17 (7 p.m.)
St. Patrick's Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 19
Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Richard F. Stika, Bishop of Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

March 21 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for candidates of
Deacon Formation Program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 21 (10:30 a.m.)
St. Benedict Day Mass
Belmont Abbey

Vatican considering document on communications in age of 'new media'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is considering the preparation of a major document on new media and their implications for the church's communications strategy.

Bishops from 82 countries began a five-day meeting in Rome March 9 to discuss modern media and the new culture of communications that has arisen in recent years. The seminar was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the pontifical council, said the purpose of the seminar was to review with bishops the changing communications scene and see how the church should respond to the challenges and opportunities.

The pontifical council, in a plenary meeting in late October, will then decide whether to go ahead with a new document on the subject, he said.

The modern church's communications strategy has been based primarily on the Second Vatican Council's 1963 decree "Inter Mirifica" on the instruments of social communications, and on the pontifical council's 1991 pastoral instruction, "Aetatis Novae" ("At the Dawn of a New Era").

Archbishop Celli said that since 1991 "a lot of water has gone under the bridge. New media are posing new questions, new interests and new pastoral necessities."

He said it was important for the church to understand that it's not just new technological tools that have arisen, but a whole new attitude toward communication based largely on interactivity and dialogue.

He said his council has been pushing bishops around the world not only to have their own Web sites, but also to make sure these sites are interactive.

Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. bishops' communications committee and a participant at the Vatican seminar, said effective use of new media is vital in reaching younger generations.

"You go where they are. And where are they? They're on programs like Twitter and Facebook and others," he said. "We need to be present, and we need the young people to help us be present."

He said young people have seized on the communications opportunities of new media, and the church should welcome their talents and expertise.

Roman visit



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd from the Campidoglio balcony during his visit to Rome's City Hall March 9. During the visit, the pope addressed a special session of the city council. He told city officials that eradicating God and his moral guidance from their lives has not brought people greater happiness and freedom; rather it has deprived people of the strength and hope needed to overcome pressing difficulties.

A moral code is incomplete "if it does not hinge upon the inspiration of and submission to God, who is the source and judge of all good," he said.

In his address, Pope Benedict also deplored a recent spate of violence in the city, saying it revealed a deeper social ill that exists within society.

Bill giving laity control of parish finances killed in Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — At the request of its proponents, a bill that would have given laypeople financial control of their parishes in Connecticut has been withdrawn and is dead for this legislative session.

In a joint statement March 10, the co-chairmen of the Connecticut Legislature's Judiciary Committee announced the cancellation of a scheduled March 11 hearing on the controversial bill.

There was no immediate comment on the bill's demise from the Catholic bishops of Connecticut, who had strongly opposed the legislation and urged Catholics to turn out at the hearing.

"It would serve no useful purpose to have a conversation about changing the laws that govern existing Roman Catholic corporations until we know if any of these existing laws are constitutional," the co-chairman said.

Going hungry, raising hope

Famine gives teens a taste of hunger

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

MOORESVILLE — "I'm hungry!" said Deanna Rizzo, 15. "But, this makes me appreciate that I have so much more!"

Deanna, a parishioner of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, and 14 of her fellow youth group members participated in the 30 Hour Famine Feb. 27-28.

This year, half a million U.S. teenagers are participating in World Vision's 18th annual famine by fasting on water or juice and forsaking food for 30 hours.

The program helps young people learn about global hunger and poverty while they raise funds to fight hunger. Through sponsor pledges by family and friends, the youths raise funds for World Vision, a Christian relief and development agency that works in nearly 100 countries around the world.

The youth group at St. Therese Church is one of eight Catholic groups — seven youth groups and one Catholic school — in the Diocese of Charlotte registered to participate in this year's famine.

The youth group at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte incorporated a spiritual approach into its famine, according to Ruben Tamayo, parish youth ministry director.

The famine began with eucharistic adoration, during which time the sacrament of reconciliation was available. A vespers service was held at the conclusion of adoration.

"The fundraising component was secondary," said Tamayo. "I wanted the focus to be on their spiritual growth, to take advantage of the fasting. The teens were very reverent."

Tamayo reinforced the importance of adapting the program to meet the goals of the parish youth group: for the sanctity of the teens; for developing a strong, personal Catholic identity; and for fostering openness to religious or priestly vocation.

Throughout the weekend, the 20 teens at St. Vincent de Paul Church also spent time in service to the community. A few of the young women assisted the Missionaries of Charity sisters with their new home in Charlotte, while the rest of the youths volunteered with the Salvation Army.

They listened also to Father Ho Lung's Missionaries of the Poor tell their vocation stories and speak of service to the poor.

"The youths respond very well to our faith if you present it right," said Tamayo.

During their famine, the teens from St. Therese Church learned about church teachings on solidarity and human dignity, prayed the Stations of the Cross and discussed the theme of sacrifice, according to Liz Manser, parish youth ministry director.



COURTESY PHOTO

Alberto Castro and Stephanie Manasa clean a Salvation Army Meals on Wheels vehicle during the 30 Hour Famine held at St. Vincent de Paul Church Feb. 27-28.

The group's outreach project involved gathering canned goods door-to-door from nearby neighborhoods and visiting the local Christian mission.

Both groups concluded the famine by attending Mass, followed by breaking the fast together in a meal shared with their families.

"I am able to relate with the hungry now," said Emily Mertes, 17, a parishioner of St. Therese Church. "Though their (the poor's) hunger is ongoing, and ours ends tonight."

The teens spoke about physical pain and numbness, throbbing headaches and mood swings due to the lack of nutrition.

World Vision reports that nearly 850 million people worldwide go to bed hungry every night.

Its programs work with 100 million people annually — mostly children in conflict-ridden areas — to alleviate that hunger, using funds such as those raised by the 30 Hour Famine.

A recent report commissioned by World Vision showed that nearly 70 percent of parents "say their teens are now more aware of the needs of others because of the current economic climate."

Contact Correspondent Mary B. Worthington at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Groups in the diocese participating in the 30 Hour Famine are:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point; Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro; St. Pius X Church, Greensboro; St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro; St. Mark School, Huntersville; St. Therese Church, Mooresville; St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte; St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte.

Time for prayer, reflection

Youth Lenten Pilgrimage ties into theme of upcoming Eucharistic Congress

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Middle-, high school- and college-aged youths from across the diocese are invited to participate in the upcoming Diocesan Youth Lenten Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey March 29.

The pilgrimage, a day of prayer and reflection, is part of the preparation for the fifth diocesan Eucharistic Congress, themed "And The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us," to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25-26.

It's about "getting students excited about the Eucharist," said Jenny Ryan, campus ministry director at Belmont Abbey College.

"Hopefully that will make the congress that much more fruitful for them in the fall," she said.

Last year approximately 300 youths as well as youth ministers, other adults, diocesan priests and deacons, women religious and monks from Belmont Abbey participated in the pilgrimage.

"It is wonderful to have this opportunity with the Lord," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis to participants at last year's pilgrimage.

"The world of today teaches us to adore ourselves, our own egos, what we want to be fulfilled," said Bishop Jugis.

"But we know by faith that we are to

adore Jesus. In eucharistic adoration, we are adoring Jesus, and adoration of Jesus is healthy for the soul," he said.

This year's pilgrimage will include a eucharistic procession, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, adoration, praise and worship music, witness talks by Belmont Abbey students, vespers and Benediction.

"In today's busy world, it (the pilgrimage) is a moment for young people to reflect on what Lent is really about," said Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College.

"It's a time to reflect on, 'Are we doing as much as we're capable of doing?'" he said.

The pilgrimage offers an opportunity for "renewal and getting ready for Christ to come into our lives in the spirit of Easter," said Ryan.

It is an opportunity to "let the Eucharist transform you so that you can be a tabernacle of Jesus," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail knmoore@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Youth Lenten Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey, visit www.GoEucharist.com.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari talks to the approximately 300 youths and young adults at the Lenten spiritual pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College March 9, 2008.



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Priest shares conversion to Catholicism

CONVERT, from page 1

began attending the Baptist church with his father after they married.

"I didn't even know what a Catholic was until I was in sixth grade," said Father Putnam.

His first real exposure to Catholicism occurred in 1978 — "the year of the three popes."

During that year, "there was a great deal of 'Catholic' coverage because of the deaths of Paul VI and John Paul I and the election of John Paul II," said Father Putnam.

"I remember being almost mesmerized by everything I was seeing," he said.

A spiritual quest

"When I was in high school I began a spiritual quest," he said, a journey which led him to the Catholic Church.

"For some time there had been something missing inside me," said Father Putnam, who began visiting different churches with friends.

During that time, "I remembered my attraction to things Catholic," he said.

He wrote a letter to the pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. That

"Everything inside me said 'this is where you are supposed to be.'"

— Father John Putnam

letter was lost in the mail; after not getting a response he wrote again.

"With the second letter I received a response and the pastor, Msgr. Eugene Livelsberger, invited me to come see him at St. Aloysius Church," said Father Putnam.

He "was the first priest who I had ever met."

At Msgr. Livelsberger's request, he attended Mass for the first time. It was there that he felt a profound sense of belonging.

"Everything inside me said 'this is where you are supposed to be,'" said Father Putnam.

Looking back on that experience he attributes that feeling to the presence



PHOTO BY KAREN EVANS

Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, gives Communion to transitional Deacon (then-seminarian) Ben Roberts during the annual chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 3, 2007. Father Putnam, a convert to Catholicism, said he is convinced his decision to convert and become a priest is "what God wanted."

of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

"The Catholic liturgy was very foreign to me since the Baptist worship service is so simple; yet, there was something that attracted me a great deal," said Father Putnam, who soon began meeting with Msgr. Livelsberger for individual instruction in the faith.

His parents were not initially pleased with his decision to become Catholic.

"They had many misconceptions about Catholics," he said, but it was a human experience that eventually won them over.

"During the course of that time, my parents had a crisis in their lives and no one to talk to," said Father Putnam.

When he suggested that they meet with Msgr. Livelsberger, they reluctantly agreed.

"He was the only person who would take time to talk to them," Father Putnam said.

After that, "they began to develop a very different view of Catholics and the church," he said.

Father Putnam's parents were present when he was baptized in the Catholic Church on his 16th birthday in 1981.

"They have been supportive ever since," he said.

A deeper calling

"My parents always wanted me to pursue medicine," said Father Putnam, who studied pre-medicine and biology at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory.

"The priesthood was always on my mind," he said, and "by sophomore year it became more and more pressing."

At that time, he began looking into the possibility of becoming a priest. During his senior year of college, he began the formal application process.

Remarkably, his parents were peaceful with his decision.

"When I decided to pursue the priesthood, my mother said that she really was not that surprised," he said.

One thing about Catholicism that Baptists tend to be skeptical about is the

devotion to Mary. But that wasn't an issue for Father Putnam, who said he has always had a natural comfort level with Our Lady.

"The rosary and devotion to her were very natural," he said, "very comforting."

In fact, Father Putnam credits Mary with his vocation.

After his first year of seminary he struggled with his call to the priesthood. That summer, he went on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, where Mary appeared over a six-month period starting May 13, 1917, to three shepherd children. After that, he felt at peace about continuing his formation.

Today Father Putnam serves as pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, where he has been since July 2000. He is also vicar forane of the Salisbury Vicariate and judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte.

He said his conversion has helped him in his ministry as a priest, particularly when it comes to working with participants in the Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

It is also helpful when he is working on cases for the diocesan marriage tribunal, especially when dealing with Catholics wishing to marry non-Catholics.

"It's helpful to understand where they are coming from," said Father Putnam. Being a convert allows him to "talk their language," he said.

But even to this day, Father Putnam is an oddity in his family. My extended family still "doesn't know what to make of me," he joked.

But through it all, he has never looked back.

He feels confident in his decision to convert and become a priest.

"I'm convinced that it's what God wanted," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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'An example to be imitated'

Women reflect on Mary through own vocations

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — "Women who have Christ-centered friends are able to handle the stress of family life much better than before they developed Christ-centered friends," said Benedictine Sister Paula Hagen.

Sister Hagen, from St. Paul, Minn., led a retreat attended by 150 women from across the Triad-area at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Feb. 21.

The retreat, entitled "Strong Women, Strong Friendship, Strong Faith," introduced participants to the life of Mary as seen in Pope Paul VI's apostolic exhortation, "Marialis Cultus" ("To Honor Mary").

For example, the women were encouraged to see Mary as one whose human need for friendship brought her to closeness with her cousin Elizabeth.

Sister Hagen is the national director of the Ministry of Mothers Sharing, or M.O.M.S., a ministry developed in 1992 by the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul.

Sister Hagen travels nationwide to share the M.O.M.S. program through lectures, workshops and retreats. She said the program answers a need because mothers are "just hungry for the spiritual nourishment that comes from the support group within their own church."

In a handout at the retreat, Marian devotion was explained as biblical, liturgical, ecumenical, anthropological and theological.

These themes are echoed in Pope Paul's document when he said, "The Virgin Mary has always been proposed to the faithful by the church as an example to be imitated ... She is held up as an example to the faithful rather for the way in which, in her own particular life, she fully and responsibly accepted the will of God, because she heard the word of God and acted on it, and because charity and a spirit of service were the driving force of her actions. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and the most perfect of Christ's disciples. All of this has a permanent and universal exemplary value."

A unique aspect of the document is the exhortations given to modern women who may see Mary as a "passive and subservient woman," said Sister Hagen.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

"Faith is best taught through faith traditions ... in the home."

— Benedictine Sister
Paula Hagen

These aspects include meditation with the assistance of Scriptures on the assertiveness of Mary in the moments of her life, including the Incarnation.

In "Marialis Cultus," Mary "will appear not as a mother exclusively concerned with her own divine Son, but rather as a woman whose action helped to strengthen the apostolic community's faith in Christ, and whose maternal role was extended and became universal on Calvary."

Sister Hagen's passion for leading women to a deeper understanding of the personality and role of Mary stems from her experience with couples and individuals during various ministry responsibilities she has held throughout her religious life.

She noticed that some mothers, at baptismal preparation classes for their infants, did not know how to bless themselves nor know the basic prayers of the Catholic Church; as such, Sister Hagen felt called to educate women on the importance of their influence over their children's faith.

"Faith is not-taught. It is caught by the example of parents," said Sister Hagen. "Faith is best taught through faith traditions ... in the home."

"Many parents think that it is the role of sisters and priests to teach the faith in school," she said. "They do not realize that parents are the primary

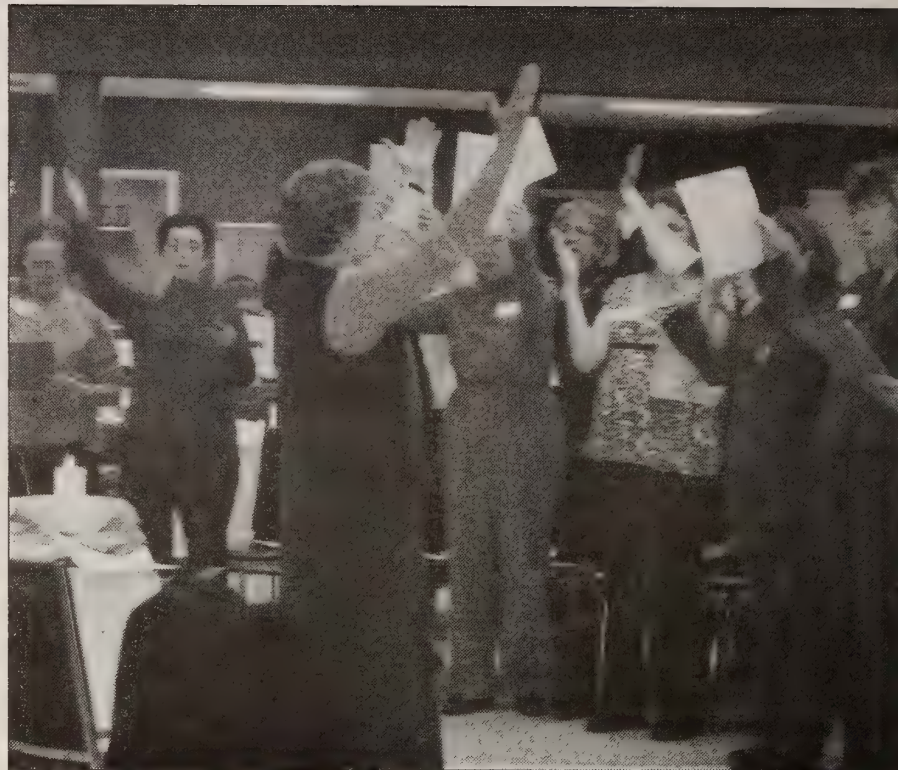


PHOTO BY MARY WORTHINGTON

Benedictine Sister Paula Hagen leads women in expressive prayer during a women's retreat at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Feb. 21.

educators of their children."

Sister Hagen called motherhood and fatherhood vocations that parents are called to, even from the moment of their own baptisms.

"Parents live out their commitment to Christ through parenting," she said.

Sister Hagen said this is a fulfillment of her vocation as a sister, which is to be a spiritual mother to the whole world.

"It seemed like I was making a big sacrifice to give up children and a family

of my own, but as Scripture says, God gives in return one hundred fold."

She said she now feels like a "grandmother who is concerned with how the church is passing the faith to the next generation."

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

Contact Correspondent Mary B. Worthington at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

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RESPECT LIFE

Cardinal: new stem cell policy favors politics over ethnics

STEM CELLS, from page 1

of the White House, Obama said the stem cell policy of former President George W. Bush, in effect since Aug. 9, 2001, had forced "a false choice between sound science and moral values."

Obama also urged Congress to consider further expansion of funding for such research.

Since 1995, the Dickey/Wicker amendment to the annual appropriations bills for federal health programs has barred federal funding of research involving the creation or destruction of human embryos.

But the president had strong words against human cloning, which he said is "dangerous, profoundly wrong and has no place in our society, or any society."

He said he would work to ensure that "our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction."

Among the several dozen people present at the White House for the signing were members of Congress, scientists, families whose members had been or could be affected by stem cell breakthroughs, and representatives of the Episcopal and United Methodist churches, several Jewish bodies and the Interfaith Alliance.

Obama said a "majority of Americans — from across the political spectrum, and of all backgrounds and beliefs — have come to a consensus that we should pursue" embryonic stem cell research.

But Cardinal Rigali said the executive order "disregards the values of millions of American taxpayers who oppose research that requires taking human life" and "ignores the fact that ethically sound means for advancing stem cell science and medical treatments are readily available and in need of increased support."

He reiterated points raised by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago,

USCCB president, who said in a Jan. 16 letter to Obama that a change in the policy on funding of embryonic stem cell research "could be a terrible mistake — morally, politically and in terms of advancing the solidarity and well-being of our nation's people."

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, former president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said allowing the use of public funds for embryonic stem cell research was "without ethical or scientific justification."

The decision to reverse the ban on federal funding was based on "utilitarian logic" that failed to take into account the fact that embryos are human beings, he told the Italian news agency ANSA March 9.

"It's about the destruction of human beings in order to turn them into material for experimentation," he said.

The Italian bishop said it was unclear why research on embryonic stem cells would need to be pursued now that new discoveries have been made with other kinds of stem cells.

He referred to the work of a Japanese biologist who found in 2007 that adult stem cells could easily be reprogrammed to an embryonic state.

At the White House, Obama said he "cannot guarantee that we will find the treatments and cures we seek. No president can promise that."

"But I can promise that we will seek them — actively, responsibly and with the urgency required to make up for lost ground," he added.

Politics over life

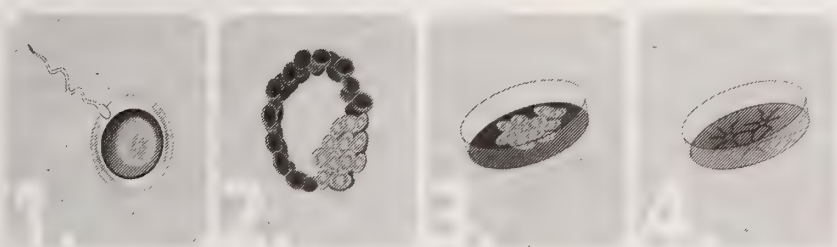
The Bush policy had allowed funding of embryonic stem cell research only when the stem cell line had been created before Aug. 9, 2001.

The executive order Obama signed permits federal funding of stem cell lines created since then, but would not allow funding of the creation of new lines, leaving that decision to Congress.

Obama also signed a "presidential memorandum on scientific integrity"

Isolating Embryonic Stem Cells

Scientists believe stem cells could repair diseased or injured tissues. The Catholic Church opposes stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos.



An egg is cloned or fertilized in vitro to create a human embryo.

The embryo begins to form and the inner cell mass is isolated.

Stem cells, present 5-7 days after fertilization, are removed and grown in a petri dish. The rest of the embryo is discarded.

Cells are manipulated to create specific human tissue such as nerve cells, muscle cells or blood cells.

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March 9, ordering the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a strategy for ensuring that "the administration's decisions about public policy be guided by the most accurate and objective scientific advice available."

He said scientific advisers should be appointed "based on their credentials and experience, not their politics or ideology."

But Paul Long, vice president for public policy at the Michigan Catholic Conference, said the order "regrettably places ideology and political posturing ahead of proven scientific therapeutic advancements."

"There are endless studies and stories of patients who have been treated, even cured of their debilitating condition following stem-cell therapies that do not necessitate the destruction of human embryos, yet the ... executive order makes every tax-paying American citizen unwittingly complicit in the destruction of human embryos for experimental research."

Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., called Obama's action the "newest step by the president to eventually remove all legal protections for innocent, nascent human life."

"The president boldly proclaimed

that he was taking the politics out of science," Bishop Finn added. "Rather, it seems clear that he is only asserting 'his politics' over life itself."

Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life of America, said the president's decision — which the organization "is against, ... period" — surprised the group and signaled "a cooling of our relations" with the Obama administration.

"While we have zero confidence that a call for a reversal of this executive order will prevail, we are hopeful that the president will heed our call for common-ground solutions in dealing with pro-life Democrats," Day added, citing in particular the Pregnant Women's Support Act.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., the author of a 2005 law authorizing \$265 million in federal research funds for adult stem cells from cord blood and bone marrow, asked in a statement: "Why does the president persist in the dehumanizing of nascent human life when better alternatives exist?"

"On both ethics grounds and efficacy grounds nonembryonic-destroying stem cell research is the present and future of regenerative medicine — and the only responsible way forward," Smith added.

Catholics urged to make prayer against abortion part of Lenten ritual

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Shawn Carney, national director of the "40 Days for Life" spring prayer campaign, is urging Catholics to pray in front of abortion centers as part of their Lenten commitment of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Carney, a 26-year-old Catholic from the Diocese of Austin, Texas, is the national coordinator of the "40 Days for Life" spring campaign of prayer, vigil and fasting.

More than 130 communities in the United States, Canada, Australia and Northern Ireland are hosting "40 Days for Life" events through April 5.

Three of those communities are within the Diocese of Charlotte — Charlotte, Franklin and Winston-Salem.

Carney said abortion providers want to convince each woman who is

experiencing a crisis pregnancy that she does not have the capacity to love her baby because of her difficult life circumstances.

"This is the lie that is sold to 4,000 women every single day in our nation," said Carney, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in College Station.

"No matter how many abortions are done," he said, "the most basic, fundamental bond — the most beautiful bond in our humanity — between a mother and a child can never be ripped apart, and called 'freedom' and called 'liberty' and called 'rights,' no matter what laws we have, no matter who is in the White House."

People who support abortion can only do that by dehumanizing the life of the unborn baby, he said, and becoming numb about the killing of a human life.

National pro-life postcard campaign to be supplemented by e-mails

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have launched a campaign to send e-mails with a pro-life message to members of Congress.

The campaign supplements the national postcard campaign begun in dioceses — including the Diocese of Charlotte — throughout the country in late January. Both efforts are being coordinated through the Washington-based National Committee for a Human Life Amendment.

"Tens of millions of cards have been distributed in parishes, schools, non-Catholic churches and civic organizations across the country," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, in a news release. "The e-mail campaign will give even more citizens the chance to participate."

The e-mails, which can be sent from the USCCB's Web site at www.usccb.org/postcard, contain the same message as the postcards.

"At this time of serious national challenges, Americans should unite to serve the good of all, born and unborn," they say, urging members of Congress to oppose the Freedom of Choice Act "or any similar measure" and to "retain existing laws against funding and promotion of abortion. It is especially important that Congress retain these laws in the various appropriations bills, e.g., the Hyde amendment in the Labor/Health and Human Services appropriations bill."

McQuade said "our voice is needed now more than ever" in order to "guard against the erosion of current pro-life measures and to keep abortion from becoming a federal entitlement."

Bishop Begley's legacy, spirit endure in diocese

SHEPHERD, from page 1

Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Begley, born in 1909 in West Springfield, Mass., was ordained bishop of the newly-established diocese on Jan. 12, 1972. He served as bishop until his retirement on May 29, 1984.

"I realize I am among the chosen few to be graced with answering the call to serve through the priestly ministry and again serve as a bishop," wrote Bishop Begley in a late-1980s series of columns.

"I have never taken either role for granted nor have I assumed I was worthy to have them," he said.

But the foundations he laid, the impressions he made and the friendships he forged have survived and flourished long after his death in High Point on Feb. 9, 2002, at the age of 92.

"I would describe him as a man of God, who had zeal for the salvation of souls, and whose enthusiasm for his ministry was catching — you were drawn into that enthusiasm and that zeal for his work," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis in a 2002 reflection of Bishop Begley.

Bishop Jugis is one of the many priests in the dioceses of both Charlotte and Raleigh who have been inspired by this "good and holy man of God," as Bishop Begley was described by one of his successors, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

A shepherd's mission

Bishop Begley was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh on May 26, 1934. He knew years prior that he would become a priest.

"It was not unusual for Catholic boys to consider a life in the priesthood and to enter seminary upon graduation from high school," wrote Bishop Begley. "I was one of those young men."

His priestly career carried him throughout the state, where he served in parishes in both the Diocese of Raleigh and what would later become the Diocese of Charlotte.

His first assignment was as pastor of St. Mary Church in Wilmington. Next he was sent to serve as assistant pastor of St. Edward Church in High Point.

He served as pastor of St. Therese Church in Wrightsville Beach, Immaculate Conception Church in Carolina Beach and St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

In 1955 he became the founding pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, where, as a monsignor, he would baptize in 1957 a baby who would later become the fourth bishop of Charlotte.

"I had the honor of being baptized by the future bishop of the diocese," said Bishop Jugis.

"When I was growing up, I had always heard about Msgr. Begley and what a wonderful pastor he was — and what a wonderful person he was," he said.

Bishop Begley served also

as superintendent of the Diocese of Raleigh's Catholic orphanage and was serving as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro when he was appointed by Pope Paul VI as the first bishop of Charlotte in 1971.

By coincidence, Bishop Begley was a cousin of Bishop William J. Hafey, first bishop of Raleigh.

"I was challenged to begin a new role in leadership and set up the newly-established Diocese of Charlotte," recalled Bishop Begley.

"But the details of being a bishop were not nearly as challenging as the transformation of my attitudes," he said. "Where once I was a peer among my priests, now I was their leader. Where once I was charged with caring for the spiritual lives of my parishioners, now I must care for the entire diocese ..."

Fruitful journey

During his tenure as bishop, he quickly earned a widespread reputation as a kind-hearted champion of the poor, an enthusiastic bridge-builder in the ecumenical community and a humble administrator who counted on the blessings and contributions of many.

As chairman of the Catholic Committee on Appalachia (CCA), he led 26 bishops from 13 states in issuing a joint pastoral letter on the state of the powerless in the mountain region in 1975. "This Land is Home to Me" attracted national attention for its forthright approach to the problems of the people in the economically-depressed area.

"Through the work I did on CCA, I came to know the Appalachian families and the struggles they faced. I was moved by their spirit and humbled by their poor existence," wrote Bishop Begley.

"I had a clearer understanding of the need for the church to reach out to all people, but especially the poor," he said.

"He was really a man of prayer," said Msgr. John McSweeney in his homily during Bishop Begley's Mass of Christian burial at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Feb. 15, 2002.

"With strength from his divine office, his daily Mass, his rosary and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, he worked hard and long hours," said Msgr. McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte in 1974.

"He was focused on his work, but always as the shepherd of the diocese," said Msgr. McSweeney. "He was a bridge who brought unity to his priests and much happiness to his new diocese and its people."

Bishop Begley wrote upon his retirement that he was satisfied with his career and life.

"I accepted the plans God laid before me," he said. "Though the road was sometimes twisting and covered in fog, the journey has been exciting and fruitful. And what more could I ask?"

MORE REFLECTION

Read Bishop Jugis' reflection of Bishop Begley on page 14.

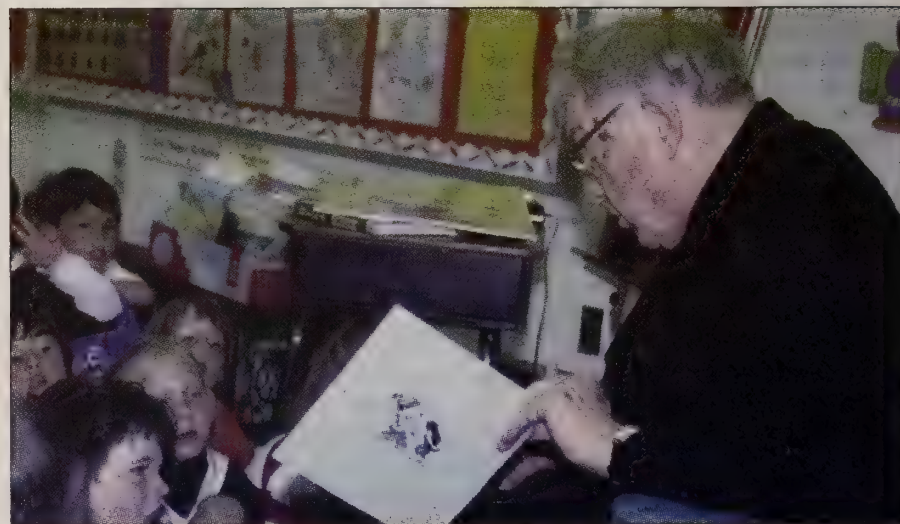


FILE PHOTO

Bishop Michael J. Begley (right) is pictured with Father Killian Mooney, a priest of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, and Houston Elmore (left) of the United Mine Workers of America at Eastover Mine in Evarts, Ky., in March 1974. As chairman of the Catholic Committee on Appalachia, Bishop Begley was at the mine to mediate during a strike. His visit was prompted by articles in a Charlotte newspaper depicting the distress of many people over the strike.

Bishop Begley later initiated a joint pastoral letter, "This Land is Home to Me," on the state of the poor in Appalachia in 1975.

March 12 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Begley, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.



FILE PHOTO

Bishop Michael J. Begley reads to students at All Saints School in Charlotte in this undated photo. March 12 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Begley, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

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CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

Fighting to overcome

Africa's poverty, culture counter church efforts to control HIV

BY MWANSA PINTU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of a series in anticipation of Pope Benedict XVI's March 17-23 trip to Africa and the October Synod of Bishops on Africa.

LUSAKA, Zambia — Extreme poverty and cultural practices are contributing to the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa, despite efforts to control HIV, said church officials.

Dr. Gilbert Buckle, executive secretary of the health department at the National Catholic Secretariat of Ghana, said although Africans have seen their peers die from AIDS, many — especially women — still indulge in desperate acts in order to earn a living, hence exposing themselves to infection.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has about 30 million people living with HIV/AIDS; this figure is likely to rise due to cultural, social and economic factors, particularly in West Africa," he told Catholic News Service.

Sister Matildah Mubanga, a member of the Daughters of the Redeemer and national health coordinator for the Zambian bishops' conference, said the fight against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, will remain difficult as long as poverty levels continue to rise.

"Lack of money and poor living standards have greatly contributed to the rise in HIV/AIDS infections in Africa," she said.

"In Zambia, for instance, where about 70 percent of the people live in poverty, most young women and girls resort to earning a living through prostitution," she said. "This exposes them to HIV."

She explained that the continued migration of people from rural to urban areas in search of jobs and a better life and the increase in cross-border trade have created new challenges to the continental fight against HIV.

She and other church workers said in most parts of rural Africa the HIV situation is compounded by inadequate stocks of essential drugs, insufficient medical personnel and the long distances between health facilities.

"In some rural areas, persons infected with AIDS are neglected and abandoned by their families; some die right in their homes because of lack of food and because they cannot manage to walk to health centers, which are usually situated miles away, to access treatment," Sister Mubanga said.

Cultural attitudes

In South Africa, Dominican Sister Alison Munro, director of the AIDS office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said the church's involvement in the fight against AIDS has brought about a tremendous change.

She said church programs have emphasized education, because officials believe that "understanding will lead to change of behavior and attitudes."

"So far, not much has been achieved in terms of changing of people's attitudes and sexual behavior because statistics indicate HIV/AIDS is still on the rise," she added.

Sister Munro said some people still do not believe they can get AIDS through sexual intercourse while others "just don't care" and tend to pin their hopes on antiretroviral medicine, which suppresses HIV, and condoms.

"Some rural people think AIDS is a white man's disease and therefore cannot affect them, while others still believe it has to do with witchcraft," said Sister Munro, who also put part of the blame on what she called bad cultural practices.

Church workers and health care personnel in Africa say sexual practices emphasize the desires of the man over the life of a woman. One priest told CNS that it has been ingrained into African women that "they have no right to refuse their husbands sexually,



CNS COURTESY OF VIVIAN GLYCK, JUST LIKE MY CHILD FOUNDATION

An HIV patient receives a CD4 count test at Bishop Asili Memorial Rehabilitation Center and General Clinic in Luweero, Uganda, in May 2007. Extreme poverty and cultural practices are contributing to the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa, despite efforts to control HIV, said church officials.

under any circumstances."

"The traditional attitudes produce fatal results," said another priest.

In many African countries, polygamy and large families are the norm, so one infected man might pass on the disease to several wives, who in turn pass on HIV to the children. In many parts of Africa, if a man dies, by tradition his brother is honor-bound to help the widows produce children. In some countries, partly because of the stigma, people still refuse to discuss AIDS.

"The subject of AIDS is largely taboo here, frustrating health workers' efforts to promote AIDS awareness," said Irish Salesian Father Larry McDonnell, who works with AIDS orphans in Swaziland.

Support and success

Sister Munro said that, since 2000, church-supported HIV programs in Swaziland, South Africa and Botswana have placed more than 600,000 patients on antiretroviral treatment and provided better care and support to people affected by the pandemic.

"I think the Catholic Church way outshines all other faiths and denominations when it comes to investing in responses to the pandemic," she said.

"The church has been on the forefront of providing quality care and support," said Sister Munro. "As Christians our concern for people goes beyond basic material needs such as food and shelter to the emotional welfare of people."

"We often struggle as a church to get money and material resources for our work, especially among the poor," she said. "We must never forget, however, that we have a treasury of spiritual riches which doesn't diminish as it is used: the Bible, prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of the sick."

In Kenya, U.S. Maryknoll Father Edward Phillips, coordinator of the church-run Eastern Deanery AIDS Relief Program based in Nairobi, agreed that antiretroviral treatment and education

have changed the African situation.

Antiretrovirals "are definitely improving the lives of people," he said. Such treatment "keeps families intact," he said.

"The difference between today and the 1990s is that, in the past, people simply died of AIDS without any access to real treatment. People did not know much about AIDS. But today the question is not about death but ongoing life," he said.

The Eastern Deanery program is one of Kenya's leading providers of antiretrovirals and tuberculosis treatment, especially to slum dwellers.

Father Phillips said that his program is also involved in the development of the country's AIDS testing and TB services and is spearheading the integration of TB services into HIV care in the country.

A way to go

Elizabeth Mataka, the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy for AIDS in Africa, told CNS that, while Africa may have some successes to celebrate, much of the continent is still failing to make progress in the areas of HIV prevention, treatment and care.

"There could be lots of reasons for the situation ... but mostly it is because of failure by governments to prioritize their HIV strategies and programs," she said.

"Botswana, for instance, has managed to reduce the rate at which children born to HIV-infected mothers contract HIV because the country decided to prioritize the prevention of mother-to-child transmission," she said.

Mataka also said African countries must design cross-border strategies and programs that ensure access to displaced and mobile populations.

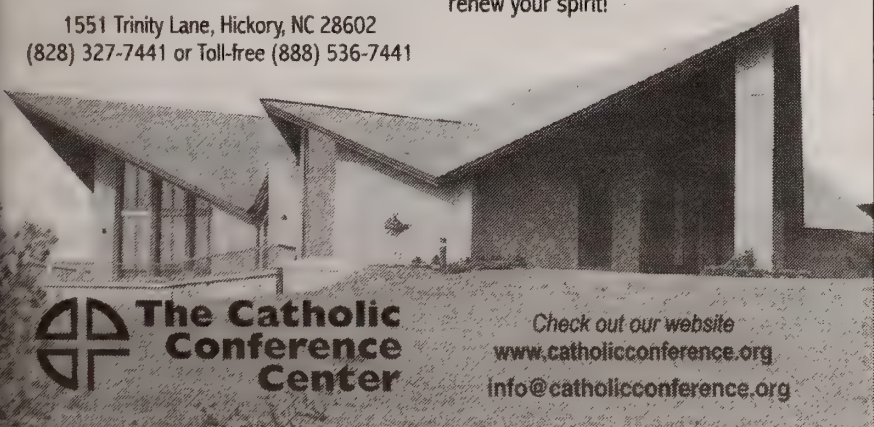
"Regional institutions, like the Southern African Development Community and civil society organizations, require further strengthening" so they can effectively participate in the fight against the pandemic, she said.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Media failures in covering religion highlighted in new book

REVIEWED BY BOB ZYSKOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In "Blind Spot," six analysts — syndicated columnists, editors, academics, media sources and authors — point out flaws in journalistic techniques and systems that prevent the media from accurately covering religion and that contribute to mainstream media missing some of the biggest stories of our time.

Chapters focus on topics such as biased reporting on the religious right in U.S. politics; major media missing the importance of religion in international terrorism; and the tendency to simplify and stereotype complex religious identity, among others.

It may be that stereotyping people of faith leads to the biggest sin by media professionals.

Allen Hertzke, a University of Oklahoma professor, says "secular blinders" keep reporters and their editors from seeing religious people in anything other than their preconceived stereotypes.

The bias of journalists leads to "a reluctance to feature evangelicals in a favorable light," Hertzke notes.

Even when religious groups or alliances are involved in human rights actions that journalists tend to approve of, mainstream media tend to dismiss the story or see it as an ideological one rather than a human story.

For example, The New York Times referred to the tragic plight of Sudanese refugees as a "pet cause of many American religious conservatives."

Hertzke counters: "It is hard to imagine the Times describing the plight of Soviet Jewry as a 'pet cause' of American Jews, or opposition to apartheid as a 'pet cause' of African-Americans."

Authors and political scientists C. Danielle Vinson and James L. Guth show the extent to which journalists misunderstand religious voters in the United States, attesting that "the most significant problem is not media bias but media ignorance."

The Christian right was seen as particularly suspect by mainstream media; in contrast, some reporters and editorial writers saw a broader agenda for some religious voters than just the "culture war" issues of abortion, same-sex marriage and stem cell research.

This was particularly true in coverage of Catholics, who on occasion were seen as wrestling with a number of "moral" issues, Vinson and Guth note.

Catholic readers in particular may enjoy the chapter that tackles how the media treated Mel Gibson and his film, "The Passion of the Christ."

Jeremy Lott, an editor as well as a press critic, writes, "News coverage of the movie was bad, the opinion writing was cliched, and the movie criticism



was worse," yet the movie was a huge success.

The reasons? Perhaps, Lott says, because of "the press' failure to honestly grapple with the broader questions of religion," but also because of "the estrangement of American journalists from their audience."

The editors and contributors of "Blind Spot" offer a handful of examples of the press doing it right when covering religion.

They also offer a number of ways the media can begin to correct what's wrong with stories about religion, urging them to understand that religion is a motivator of human behavior; realize that religion is important to people; and disregard pack and "tribal" journalism, where journalists as a group tend to report the same stories and agree on what is good and right.

The editors of "Blind Spot" recommend that mainstream media hire people who practice their faith, who go to church, who know details about religion.

They urge reporters to take religion seriously and know about it to properly cover all the news, not just religious news, because they are missing the religious factors in much of the news.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but "Blind Spot" has a blind spot or two of its own.

In complaining how popes shouldn't be described in terms of liberal or conservative, press critics shouldn't pigeonhole Catholic bishops into those same camps.

And much of the analysis offered is about only the press giants — The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Pack journalism admittedly leads to many other newspapers and media outlets taking their cues from the coverage from those big boys, but there are a lot of other newspapers and media across this country, and coverage may very well be different in newsrooms and locales where religion is more understood and appreciated.

That would be an interesting study.

Zyskowski is associate publisher of *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and president of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 22, 2009

March 22, Fourth Sunday
of Lent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Psalm 137:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel: John 3:14-21

Acting on our faith lets us walk with Jesus

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The coffee is brewed, hot chocolate is marshmallowy and the sweets are scrumptious.

It is once again time for Paradox Cafe, an event where the youth group at our parish sips coffee and ponders the big ideas of our faith.

Tonight's topic centers on this question: Is faith a gift from God, or is it a human act?

Of course, as with most paradoxes, the answer is "both." But we take our time getting to that conclusion.

First we talk about how faith is a gift from God. The youths say things such as we cannot make faith or invent it, so it has to come from somewhere. We do not earn it, so it must be a gift.

After awhile the conversation turns to faith being something that we do. The youths use the example of a Christmas present.

The gift becomes truly yours only after you do something — open it.

As the evening comes to a close, we all agree that faith is both a gift we receive from a loving God and an action we take.

We see this truth come to life in this Sunday's readings. St. Paul says to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God."

Here it is clear that faith is something given. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that "everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." To believe is an action that we take of our own free will.

In the next verse, the whole formula is wrapped up in a nice neat package. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

God gives and we believe, gift and action united to bring about faith.

We are in the middle of Lent, looking ahead to Easter. Our Lenten fasts and activities are things we do to increase the faith that we have been given.

By taking action on our faith, we walk with Jesus through the desert to the cross and into the resurrection where faith and action merge into one, and we are completely one with the triune God.

Questions:

How would you explain faith as a gift from God?

What actions have you taken to receive and/or increase your faith?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15-21

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25; Monday (Lenten Weekday), 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; Tuesday (St. Patrick), Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday (St. Joseph), 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22-28

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21; Monday (St. Toribio de Mogrovejo), Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; Wednesday (The Annunciation of the Lord), Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

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Rhymes of the times

Canadian Catholic poet finds new venues, sources for creative voices

BY MIKE MASTROMATTEO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO — A Toronto poet is using her creative gifts in new venues to inspire a new generation to the simple pleasures of poetry and creative use of language.

Desi Di Nardo, a product of Toronto's Catholic school system, is a rising star in Toronto's literary community.

Her poetry has been featured in a number of literary journals, and her poem "Rainbird in the Annex" was featured on the Poetry on the Way displays on Toronto's public transit system. The poem was composed when Di Nardo was just 8 years old.

Di Nardo's work now is coming to the attention of audiences outside Toronto. Her eight-line poem, "Cup 253," was recently published on coffee cups in Starbucks throughout the United States.

The text of the poem was crafted specially to fit the curved surface of the coffee cup, allowing patrons easy readability.

"When I learned that the Starbucks company was interested in my poetry, I

decided to tailor my work so it would fit the cup specs with a slant to it so that it might appeal to the masses and not just to a literate or specified audience," Di Nardo said in a recent interview. She said the Starbucks poem has generated positive response from throughout the United States and beyond.

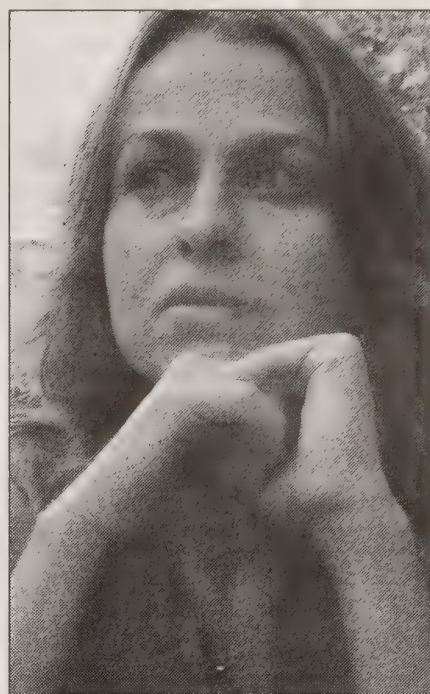
"I've received a fair bit of positive feedback from people across the world who have reached out to express thanks and to relay how it affected them," she said. "Regardless of whether you share the same sentiments, the important thing is individuals speaking up, speaking out and sharing ideas."

For Di Nardo, a parishioner at Toronto's downtown St. Peter Church, poetry and creative writing are a means to stay attuned to one's spirituality.

Di Nardo, who studied literature at the University of Toronto, caught the attention of Father Giorgio Di Cicco, a priest of the Toronto Archdiocese and the poet laureate for the city of Toronto.

Father Di Cicco describes Di Nardo's work as poetry to be "thankful for."

In the preface of Di Nardo's latest work of poems, "The Plural of Some Things," Father Di Cicco outlined his



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF DESI DI NARDO

Poet Desi Di Nardo is a rising star in Toronto's literary community. Di Nardo, a Catholic, is pictured in an undated publicity photo.

own impressions of the young creator. "How refreshing to find a writer so unabashedly poetic as Desi Di Nardo," he said.

"In a world of politicized screeching and lament, one is reminded of Pablo Neruda's definition of art as that which 'gives people hope.' By that definition Di

Nardo stands head and shoulders above the mob of academic sirens and macho wailers," he said.

Di Nardo uses words, language and artifice to see everyday realities in a new way, drawing inspiration from nature, urban life and plain geography.

Her work "Canadian Moose" is a seemingly simple poem about homelessness that on nuanced reading takes on a more troubling message about suffering and society's tendency to ignore social problems.

"I believe poetry is universal and is something that everyone can relate to," Di Nardo said. "As an advocate for poetry, I get satisfaction from seeing people get excited about poetry, whether it has to do with reading it or even attempting to write it."

Di Nardo also mentors young people looking for outlets for their own creative expression. She conducts poetry and writing workshops in Toronto high schools, and she is about to begin a 10-week internship as a writer in residence with Loretto College Catholic secondary school.

Known as Student Writers and Teachers, the program is sponsored by the Toronto Catholic District School Board and Descant literary journal.

Lenora Rissin, a teacher at Jarvis Collegiate, a Toronto public high school, has invited Di Nardo to conduct a number of writing workshops, which would include "huge classes of students who were not academically inclined."

"Desi approached them with such enthusiasm, such warmth, such a contagious love for her subject, such insight which was communicated so clearly, gently and interactively," that the students responded quite well, Rissin said.

'Kings' based on biblical account

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Kings" is a new drama series based loosely on the biblical account of the life of King David in which the pious but scheming monarch of an imaginary land called Gilboa, King Silas Benjamin (Ian McShane), attempts to capitalize on the sudden fame of farm boy turned warrior David Shepherd (Chris Egan), who becomes a hero after rescuing the sovereign's son, Jack (Sebastian Stan), taken prisoner by the forces of Gilboa's neighbor and enemy, the land of Gath.

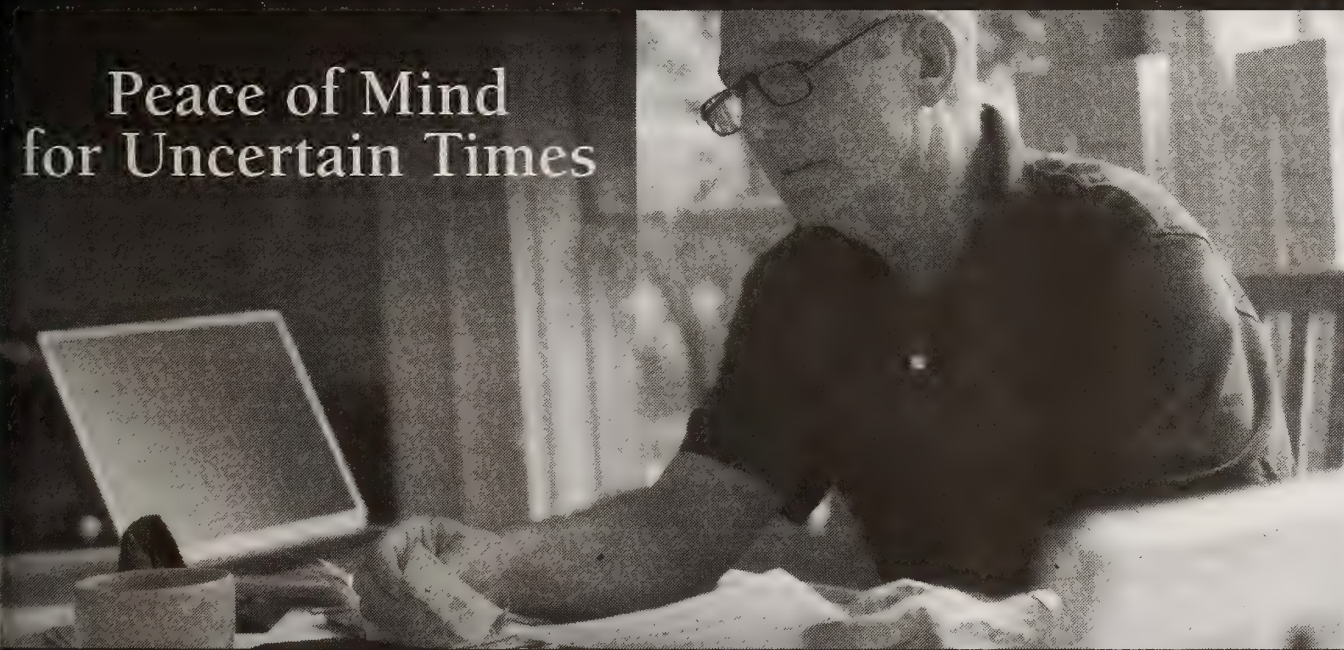
David falls for Silas' daughter, Michelle (Allison Miller), while preacher Ephram Samuels (Eamonn Walker), General Linus Abner (Wes Studi) and financier William Cross (Dylan Baker) all jockey for influence.

Though lavishly mounted and ably acted, especially by McShane, this tale of courtly romance and political intrigue is essentially a prime-time soap opera with religious overtones.

And a few mature plotlines turning on adultery and homosexuality, while discreetly handled, make it best for adults.

Kings premieres Sunday, March 15, 8-10 p.m. EDT on NBC.

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Children's adoration teaches reverence for Eucharist

EUCCHARIST, from page 1

parishioner, got the idea from a friend in her hometown of Nashville, Tenn.

"I thought it was particularly appropriate for this diocese because we have the Eucharistic Congress," Kennedy said.

When she approached Father Reid with the idea, he agreed to host the service.

"It's a way to educate kids about the Eucharist and what we believe as Catholics," said Father Reid.

"Once a month we invite the kids to come," he said, and each time, "we teach them a little bit more."

The services, which are open to all families of the diocese, are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year.

When they began in October 2007, approximately 75 children came to the first one.

"Parents want to be able to bring their children to adoration," said Father Reid, but "a lot of kids don't know how to behave in front of the Eucharist."

That's where he steps in.

"If you teach them, they can be quiet in front of the Blessed Sacrament for 15 or 20 minutes," he said.

"Father Reid is really good with the kids," said Molly Beckert, a parishioner at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte who brings her three young children to adoration each month.

"I want to teach my children that the center of their lives has to be the Eucharist."

— Margaret Kennedy

"He coaches them all along as he's going," she said.

"He talks about his vestments and the way we are supposed to be in front of the holy Eucharist," said Kennedy.

Most of the kids who come on a regular basis can follow along with the prayers in the missal.

"They know the 'O Salutaris' and 'Tantum Ergo' and they can recite the Divine Praises," said Father Reid.

"Exposing them at such a young age, I think, has an impact on them that we don't even realize," said Beckert.

"In a way the little kids grasp it easier," she said, referring to her children's comprehension of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. "They just believe innocently."

Kennedy agreed, "Even my 2-year-old knows to prostrate in front of the holy Eucharist," she said.

"I want to teach my children that the center of their lives has to be the Eucharist," Kennedy said. "And this has only reinforced that."

Eucharistic adoration "is a part of our faith," said Father Reid. "It's a great gift that we can share with our kids."

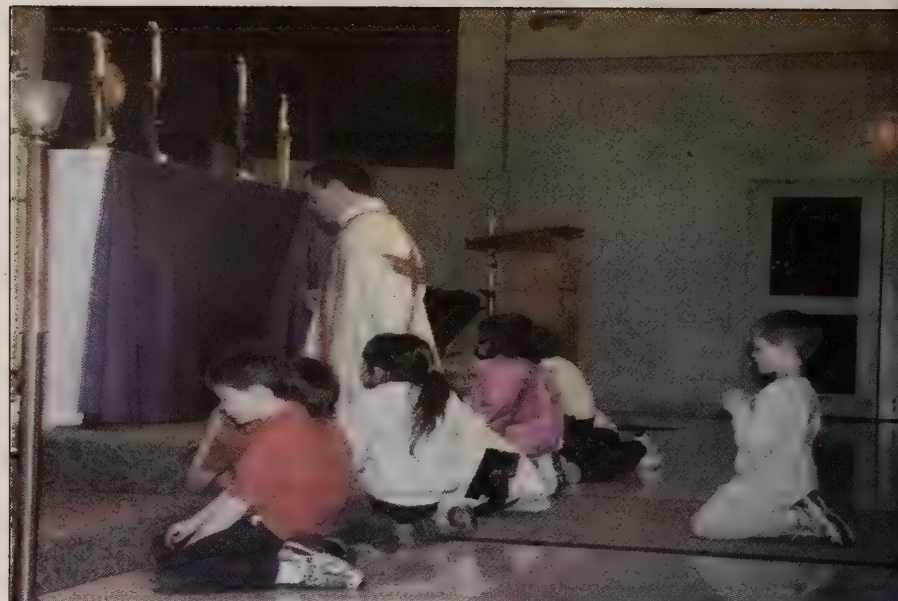


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Children and Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, kneel before the Blessed Sacrament March 4. During the children's adoration service, Father Reid teaches them about the vestments and instruments he uses and then he leads them in prayer and song.

COUNSELING SUPERVISOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES - ASHEVILLE, NC



The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville has an immediate opening for a bilingual Regional Counseling Supervisor. This is a bilingual position requiring fluency in Spanish. Previous experience in a Spanish-only therapeutic setting is required. A LCSW licensure is required and three years of post-graduate counseling experience. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This position requires regular travel to Yancey and Burke counties.

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Full job descriptions are available by sending a resume' to Kathy McDaniel at St. Andrew's, 631 N Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA 24016 or email: kmcdaniel@standrewsroanoke.org.

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Requirements include a master's degree in pastoral ministry, theology or related fields, and a minimum of five years ministry experience. Bilingual skills (English and Spanish) preferred.

Interested candidates are invited to send a cover letter and resume to: Sr. Rose Marie Adams, IHM, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606

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Cassidy Kreber, Elizabeth Knox and Elyssa Emerick, students of St. Pius X School in Greensboro, and a resident of Dolan Manor hold handmade Valentine's Day cards on Valentine's Day Feb. 14. Students made the cards and delivered them after school to residents of Dolan Manor and Hall Towers senior apartments in Greensboro.

Lined with food



COURTESY PHOTO

Sara Patterson, Talley Mortara, Mackenzie Zinkil, Georgiale Christmas and Quinn Tardif, fifth-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, stand Feb. 20 beside the 2,433 food items collected to help replenish the food pantry of Catholic Social Services in Charlotte. The students collected enough items to line them up nearly the length of the school track. Members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Charlotte Catholic High School collected the items for delivery in three pick-up trucks to CSS.

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The gathering of souls for the Divine Shepherd

Bishop Begley's missionary spirit continues to guide, inspire throughout the Diocese of Charlotte

This month we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of Charlotte, who was born March 12, 1909.

As we celebrate 100 years since the birth of our founding bishop, we thank God that he provided us with such a good shepherd to bring the Diocese of Charlotte into existence.

After having served as a priest in North Carolina for 37 years, Bishop Begley was ordained the first bishop of Charlotte at St. Patrick Cathedral Jan. 12, 1972.



Bishop Michael J. Begley

Bishop Begley's words

The following words from Bishop Begley's address to the congregation at the end of his ordination Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral remind us of the humility with which he exercised his ministry as bishop.

He acknowledged that he bore a "burden of servitude" under the Lord, and that not only he, but everyone in the diocese, bore the burden of servitude to further Christ's mission.

Here are Bishop Begley's words from his ordination Mass:

"It is with a sense of deep humility that I acknowledge the responsibility vested in me here in what is now St. Patrick's Cathedral in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I am grateful to His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, for his confidence entrusted to me. I am also grateful to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate, for this expression of his kindness to us in coming here; to Bishop Waters, and for all of you in expressing your kindness in being with us for the erection of this Diocese of Charlotte.

"To you, my brothers and sisters of the diocese, I express my appreciation of your acceptance of me as your bishop.

"This day of ordination brings an added awareness to me of sharing in the priesthood of our Divine Lord. For those of you who have been coworkers with me over the past several years in the

From the Bishop

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE



Cursillo movement, I should like to say to you as to the others that I refer to this not as a new day, but the beginning of a fourth day in my priestly life.

"I ask all of you to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide all of us in the gathering of souls for the Divine Shepherd. This is a challenge that lies ahead.

"We are all aware of the circumstances and environment of the day. We need not exaggerate nor underestimate therefore. However, as the people of God we shall pray and work together that his will be accomplished.

"We are all one in Christ, and we all bear an equal burden of servitude under our Lord."

Missionary spirit

Besides his humility and his spirit of devoted service to the Lord, Bishop Begley's missionary spirit was also evident in the address he gave that day at his ordination.

This spirit already had guided him for 37 years of priestly ministry in North Carolina. As he now moved forward with the new diocese, he asked everyone to pray with him that the Holy Spirit would guide the entire diocese "in the gathering of souls for the Divine Shepherd."

To this day, the gathering of souls for the Lord remains the mission of the diocese. The salvation of souls is the mission of the entire Catholic Church. The desire to share the Gospel of Christ and to bring Christ's salvation to everyone continues to motivate the Diocese of Charlotte and all its ministries.

Bishop Begley left his missionary mark on the diocese.

Tributes to Bishop Begley

Several tributes to Bishop Begley remain part of the life of our diocese even to this day.

The most important tribute is the vibrant and growing Diocese of Charlotte itself, which is now 37 years old, and which continues to be impelled by the apostolic zeal of our founding bishop

to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and to work for the gathering of souls for the Divine Shepherd.

Another tribute to him is the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia, which is convened bi-annually to study justice and peace issues as they relate to ministry to the people of Appalachia.

Three Bishop Begley Conferences have been held over the last five years, and a fourth conference is planned for this fall.

The legacy of Bishop Begley's concern for social justice is also honored by the Bishop Begley Award which is given each year by the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Youth Ministry.

This award is given to a high school-aged youth who excels as a Catholic leader in social justice and community service. This honor has been bestowed on a young person in our diocese every year since 1989.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte has a Bishop Michael J. Begley Endowment Fund to provide for the general needs of charitable ministries throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

This endowment reminds us of the many years that Msgr. Begley served as director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Raleigh before becoming the bishop of Charlotte. His attention to the needs of the poor continued to be foremost in his mind throughout his ministry as bishop.

The strength of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Charlotte is another lasting tribute to the bishop.

Having served for many years as the director of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Raleigh, he continued to carry on his interest in helping the laity understand their call to holiness by means of Cursillo and other movements, even when serving as bishop of Charlotte. Cursillo was so dear to the bishop that he referred to it in his talk at his ordination Mass.

The Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem honors the memory of the good bishop who had served as the pastor of the parish for two different terms, 1942-1946 and 1966-1971, before his appointment as bishop.

The memory of Bishop Begley is also honored in the Knights of Columbus council which bears his name: Bishop Michael J. Begley Council 770 in Charlotte. This is the first Knights council in North Carolina.

We love the brethren

At Bishop Begley's ordination Mass, St. John's Gospel was read, which contains Our Lord's command: "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

The Lord's command to love one another took root in the heart of Bishop Begley, and through his ministry as bishop it also took lasting root in the life of the Diocese of Charlotte. His service as bishop was guided by his motto: We love the brethren.

May the Holy Spirit, who inspired a spirit of humble service in our founding bishop, continue to guide every one of us throughout the Diocese of Charlotte in the missionary work of the gathering of souls for the Divine Shepherd.

The suffering servant

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



The word around the country is that Washington has become the epicenter of the nation. Daily we are hearing of billions of dollars being doled out to bolster the economy.

Models aimed at bailing out businesses, home owners and families are being redesigned behind congressional doors, and President Barack Obama is on the airwaves continuously trying to guide the U.S. through its woes.

These strategies are laudable. New models are always helpful when business as usual isn't helping. And it is heartening to experience the country's leader working feverishly to reverse our major problems.

If these efforts are to succeed, however, the model of Christ, the suffering servant, must be at the epicenter. During his ministry, Christ asked the apostles, "Who do people say that I am?"

They replied, "John the Baptist." Still others said one of the prophets. Then Peter spoke up and said Jesus is the Christ.

What followed next is ironic. Christ said he must go up to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Peter then took Christ aside and rebuked him.

Christ turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do."

One moment there is accord, and the next moment there is discord; but why?

In the minds of the Jews, the Messiah was to come as a triumphal conqueror and bring lasting peace and prosperity to Israel. Christians embrace Christ as the Messiah who has come to suffer and die for us, and not wallow in self-serving triumphalism.

Selfless sacrifice and suffering for another is the divine model for true living. It is the ultimate means for achieving peace, harmony and joy.

Many of our financial problems are the result of immoral people whose selfishness has brought suffering to families, retirees, businesses, schools, charitable institutions and a host of others.

Prominent people thought to be respectful and reliable succumbed to the "get it now, don't deny yourself what is in it for you" way of life.

The antithesis of this is the suffering servant model that teaches us we were not created for ourselves, but for others. It is the opposite of narcissism, vanity and self-indulgence.

And it advocates the common good over personal preservation, citizen sacrificing and suffering for others as the highest principles of life. If we are to overcome our present crisis, thinking the way God thinks must be preferred to thinking as human beings do.

Every day has moments of pure joy

God wants YOU to be happy, even during Lent

How do I know that God wants me to be happy, even during Lent?

Jesus came precisely to teach us that God is our Father in heaven.

Doesn't every father want his children to be happy?

At the Last Supper Jesus summed up his mission on earth: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11).

Believing this is a matter of faith, not feelings. But isn't Lent supposed to focus on the cross? Yes, but the joy of Easter is the theme of the entire season of Lent. Christ commanded us to love one another, which is both a joy and a cross.

Wherever there is love, there is service; wherever there is service, there is sacrifice; and wherever there is sacrifice, there is suffering.

We are called to the cross, but there is nothing contradictory between joy and the cross.

Jesus told us that he wants his joy to be in us. He knows very well that the only way to find real joy is to put aside self-pity. By serving others we tend to forget ourselves.

Gratifying our senses is good, but it can only bring temporary happiness, like quenching one's thirst on a hot day. We

can only drink so much water.

Supernatural joy, on the other hand, is being aware that God truly dwells within us. That awareness is what brings true human fulfillment.

We all need to love and be loved, and we all need to strive to fulfill our purpose in life. Finding one's purpose is a thrilling adventure.

Psalm 9:3 sings of supernatural joy: "I will delight and rejoice in you."

St. Paul repeats the theme: "Eye has not seen ... what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9).

Jesus said, "Be not afraid." He implied that there is no true danger in life because your heavenly Father is always close by, protecting you.

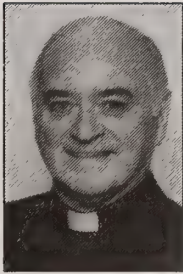
We've all had days when feelings get in the way of living joyfully. We get down on ourselves and forget to hold on to the knowledge of God's love.

However, the ascetical discipline of controlling our thoughts can liberate us! And as such, why not put on the indomitable will to count your blessings?

In the book "War Within and Without: Diaries and Letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh," Lindbergh tells how she dealt with times when her joy seemed

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



to evaporate.

She resolved to think about the moments of inner satisfaction. These came her way each day, and were times of laughter and kindness provided by her family and friends.

"Every day has these moments of pure joy," she told herself, "even on the dullest and saddest day."

When we make a point of appreciating the daily little joys of life, we can begin to relax more, taking pleasure in them.

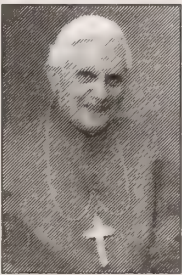
"Some blessings are so subtle," she continued, that "we can easily miss them if we are not watchful; like the memory of a special smile, or a beautiful flower in full bloom, or a welcome letter from a friend. All the little joys of life can contribute to a brighter mood. The experiences that lift the spirit can be savored for hours, even days, and the list is limitless. Keeping a gratitude journal."

Take responsibility for your own happiness. It pleases the Lord when you do.

Christianity promotes human progress, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because Christianity promotes a culture of values, it aids in human development and progress, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Early Christian monastic women and men began this essential role by proclaiming the Gospel and spreading knowledge about the arts and sciences to the general population, he said March 11 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Promoting the Gospel "must also entail promoting a true human culture," he said.

The pope continued his catechesis on early Christian writers of the East and West by focusing his talk on St. Boniface, the eighth-century martyr and missionary of the Germanic peoples.

The Apostle of Germany tirelessly spread the faith, promoted Christian morality and established dioceses and monasteries throughout northern Europe, the pope said.

He said St. Boniface was so ardently in love with the word of God that he zealously followed its call and his duty to bring it to others even though it meant risking his own life.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the early Christian writers of East and West, we now turn to St. Boniface, the apostle of the Germans.

Born in England and baptized with the name Winfrid, he embraced the monastic life and was ordained a priest. Despite his promise as a scholar, he sensed the call to proclaim the Gospel to the pagans of the continent.

After an initial setback, he visited Rome and was charged by Pope Gregory II with the mission to evangelize the Germanic peoples.

Taking the name Boniface, he worked tirelessly for the spread of the faith and the promotion of Christian morality, established bishoprics and monasteries throughout northern Europe, and contributed in no small way to the growth of a Christian culture.

He crowned his witness to Christ by a martyr's death, and was buried in the great monastery of Fulda.

St. Boniface continues to inspire us by his example of missionary zeal, his complete fidelity to the word of God and the integrity of the Catholic faith, his strong sense of communion with the Apostolic See, and his efforts to promote the fruitful encounter of Germanic culture with the Roman-Christian heritage.

Deprivation of freedom

A double standard on conscience rights

The Obama administration wasted little time in working toward revoking a regulation protecting the conscience rights of health care professionals.

The regulation took effect only two days before the inauguration. Issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, the regulation implements three statutes passed by Congress in the past 35 years prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in medical procedures — including abortion — because of religious beliefs or moral objections.

The rules apply to institutions receiving government money and would require as many as 584,000 employers ranging from major hospitals to doctors' offices and nursing homes to certify that they are complying with several existing federal laws that protect the conscience rights of health care workers.

The regulation was approved last summer and took effect after a required waiting period. During that period, the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association filed suit to block its implementation.

There is an obvious double standard at work here.

The repeated claim of those who want to keep abortion legal is that abortion is a decision involving a woman and her physician, not appropriate for government involvement. This implies that conscience trumps law.

If that is the case, why such reaction

to a rule that merely implements statutes that protect the same primacy of conscience?

The notion that a court can demand health care professionals perform actions they believe to be evil "is getting lost in the heated rhetoric" surrounding the abortion issue, said John Brehany, executive director of the Catholic Medical Association.

Abortion is not the only issue. The premise that the government can supersede the conscience of a doctor or nurse can be extended.

States with physician-assisted suicide laws, such as Washington and Oregon, could demand participation by physicians for the same reason. In some states, physicians have refused to participate in capital punishment.

For the same reason, that conscience clause could be overridden.

"By eliminating conscience rights for health care providers who adhere to traditional medical ethics, we will effectively eliminate future as well as present health care providers from the health care system," wrote Nancy Valko, president of Missouri Nurses for Life.

"Will the health care system be populated with health care professionals who are comfortable with ending life?" she asked.

The hypocritical double standard was predicted by Cardinal Justin Rigali, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a letter to Congress last July. He said the issue "provides self-described 'pro-choice' advocates with

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



an opportunity to demonstrate their true convictions. ...

"Do they at least hold that 'freedom of choice' must belong to everyone, including those who have deep moral concerns in this area? Or is the 'pro-choice' label a misleading mask for an agenda of actively promoting and even imposing morally controversial procedures on those who conscientiously hold different views?"

The revocation proposal will undergo review by the Office of Management and Budget and then be published in the Federal Register, which begins a 30-day period for public comment.

"Physicians must defend their right to practice medicine in accordance with their conscience," said Brehany.

It is oppression to force people to compromise their conscience in order to practice their profession.

Let's accept as fact that the rights of patients would be limited by the rule. The result would be no more than inconvenience as patients would have to seek another physician whose views are in concert with theirs.

But inconvenience resulting from limiting a right is a lesser evil than denial of a right of conscience.

Being forced to do something against conscience is a serious deprivation of freedom.



"And The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us." — John 1:14

*Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to
the Diocesan Youth Lenten Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey*

Sunday, March 29 12:30pm – 6:30pm

Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at Exit 26)

Your day also will include:

- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Praise and Worship music
- Witness talks by Abbey students
- Vespers and Benediction
- Pilgrimage T-shirts for first 500



Bishop Peter Jugis



Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder



Mr. Paul McNulty

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Jugis, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College; and Seminarian, Mr. Paul McNulty.

SCHEDULE

12:30 PM - Arrival, Campus tours and
Welcome activity

1:00 PM - Greetings: Abbot Placid and
Dr. William Thierfelder

1:45 PM - Student and Parent Programs

Students: Praise and worship with
Abbey Students and Charlotte
Seminarian Paul McNulty, Confessions

Parents: Talks by Dr. Thierfelder;
Dr. Lucas Lamadrid

3:30 PM - Quiet Transition to Basilica

4:00 PM - Witness Talk - Adoration and Vespers

4:15 PM - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament,
Bishop's Address

4:45 PM - Eucharistic Procession

5:30 PM - Vespers with Bishop Jugis and the
Monks of Belmont Abbey

6:00 PM - Benediction of the
Most Blessed Sacrament

6:15 PM - Closing Remarks and Blessing

Information at www.GoEucharist.com

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte



Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

MARCH 20, 2009

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Perspectives

What would Jesus do during Lent?; the responsibility to fight injustice; detoxing from technology

| PAGES 14-15

VOLUME 18 No 20

In search of truth

Man's quest for
meaning leads to
monastic life

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: This is the
fourth in a series of conversion
stories.*

CHARLOTTE — Rodney Odom's journey to Catholicism began in the main library of Philadelphia about seven years ago.

He was Christian by birth, but had abandoned religion. Then, a general interest in spiritualism ignited his quest.

"In my search for more, I found myself reading about the

See CONVERT, page 5

Corrective correspondence

In letter, pope responds
to criticisms over
excommunication
decision of bishops

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a letter to the world's bishops, Pope Benedict XVI expressed regret that his lifting of the excommunications of four traditionalist bishops gave rise to a storm of protests and bitterness.

The pope said the controversy over Bishop Richard Williamson's statements denying

See POPE, page 13

Called to be 'men of prayer'



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, assisted by Deacons Michael Zboyovski (left) and Carlos Medina, celebrates the permanent deacons' annual Mass of recommitment at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 14.

Deacons recommit
to ministry at
annual Mass

BY DEACON
GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Permanent deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered to commit once again to their diaconate service in the church.

Eighty-seven deacons and wives gathered for the deacons' annual recommitment Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 14.

During the ceremony, the deacons' wives also promised to support their husbands in their vocations to the church.

"It bodes well for the Diocese of Charlotte that so many of you are gathered here today with such enthusiasm in song and prayer,"

See DEACONS, page 12

A journey of faith

Iraqi refugees find hope, seek better
future in North Carolina

BY ANN KILKELLY

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

*Editor's note: Names and details
were changed for privacy.*

CHARLOTTE — Leaving her husband behind in danger in Iraq and journeying to America with their two young children, Amal's Lenten journey takes on a

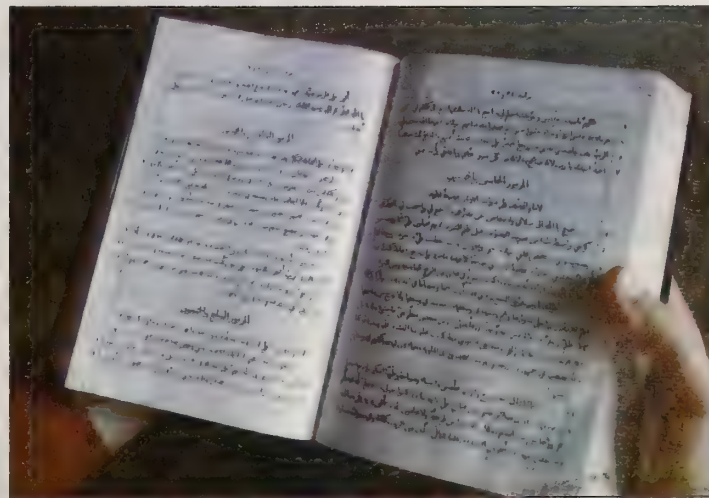
new meaning.

This year, her Lenten journey is a "trust walk" with Jesus.

"I feel that Jesus is with me right now," said Amal, a Catholic and native of Iraq.

She prays for hours each day, taking in the words of Scripture, finding consolation in

See IRAQ, page 6



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Amal, a Catholic Iraqi refugee recently resettled with her children in the Diocese of Charlotte, holds open her Bible written in Arabic in this undated photograph.

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Championing women

Local Catholics participate in
U.N. commission

| PAGE 7

On the road to peace

Pope's hopes for Africa;
Kenyans fight ethnic tension

| PAGE 9

Culture Watch

Book on preparing youth to
lead; Catholic radio expands

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

INDULGING IN FORGIVENESS



CNS PHOTO BY CINDY WOODEN

Italian young people listen to a guide describing the central doors into the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome March 10. A plenary indulgence is offered for Catholics who visit the basilica during the year of St. Paul, which ends June 29. To receive the indulgence a person must confess sins, receive the Eucharist and offer specific prayers.

Splendidly pure: Receiving indulgences in the year of St. Paul

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Many of the pilgrims recently coming out of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls were glowing — and not just because the sun was shining brightly.

Crossing the threshold of the “Pauline Doors,” praying at St. Paul’s tomb, confessing their sins, receiving the Eucharist and offering specific prayers, they came away with a plenary indulgence.

Sister Palmagnese Rossini, a member of the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, made her pilgrimage March 10.

Asked why she wanted an indulgence, she said: “We are all children of Adam and Eve and despite the sacraments and the sacrifice of Jesus, we have a residue of sin. We want to be splendidly pure like the Blessed Mother,” and an indulgence gives repentant Christians that extra shine.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines an indulgence as “the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven.”

Especially for the Pauline year — marking the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle Paul’s birth — the Catholic Church is offering an indulgence to pilgrims who visit his tomb at the Basilica of St. Paul’s Outside the Walls.

Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the basilica, said that with the Pauline year, which began last June, “the number of pilgrims from around the world is increasing.”

“They come to visit the tomb of the apostle,” he said, and the indulgence is an extra grace available to those who

have the right attitude of faith.

In an article for the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, the pope’s chief ecumenist said the Pauline year reminds Christians — both Catholics and Protestants — of St. Paul’s central teaching that we receive justification and salvation from Jesus Christ through no merit of our own.

Writing in the March 7 edition of the newspaper, Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said Catholics must understand that the church changed the way indulgences were handled in order to make their meaning and their relationship to salvation in Christ clear.

“When we speak of the church’s treasure of grace, we are not talking about any material reality or a kind of depository from which the church can make withdrawals when needed,” he wrote. “The treasure of grace is, in the end, Jesus Christ” and his immeasurable mercy, which the church — the body of Christ — shares.

Even after a person’s sins are forgiven, the cardinal said, it is obvious he or she “still lives in this world marked by the consequences and structures of sin.”

An indulgence helps attenuate those consequences and gives each Christian added strength to continue the daily battle against sin, he said.

While Catholics are under no obligation to seek an indulgence, he said, “it is a useful and beneficial pastoral gift for facing ... the struggle against the power and violence of evil.”

Obama, president of U.S. bishops hold private meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama met for half an hour March 17 with Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the White House and the USCCB announced.

Brief statements issued by the White House and the USCCB said little more than that the two presidents had met for a private, 30-minute afternoon session in the Oval Office.

The meeting was not included in Obama’s daily schedule released to the press and no mention was made of it by either organization until it was over.

“The president and Cardinal George discussed a wide range of issues, including important opportunities for the government and the Catholic Church to continue their long-standing partnership to tackle some of the nation’s most pressing challenges,” said the White House statement.

“The president thanked Cardinal George for his leadership and for the contributions of the Catholic Church in America and around the world,” said the statement.

The statement from the USCCB said:

“The meeting was private. Cardinal George and President Obama discussed the Catholic Church in the United States and its relation to the new administration.

“The meeting lasted approximately 30 minutes.”

“At the conclusion, Cardinal George expressed his gratitude for the meeting and his hopes that it will foster fruitful dialogue for the sake of the common good,” the USCCB statement added.

Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of media relations for the USCCB, said she expected no further information about the meeting to be released.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — A *Women’s Lenten Program* on the theme, “*Staying at the Cross*” will be held at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., March 28. Stations of the Cross, led by local Secular Franciscan women, will take place at 9 a.m., with registration at 9:45 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m. with guest speakers and small group discussions. A soup and salad luncheon will be provided and door prizes will be awarded. All women are welcome; there is no cost to attend. To RSVP, contact Marcia Torres at (828) 697-1235 or e-mail johndandmarciatorres@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Solemn vespers of Lent* will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the church and completes the Divine Service for that day. The evening vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 22, Father Christopher Roux gives the reflection on the fourth word, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” On March 29, Father Brad Jones

gives the reflection on the fifth word, “I thirst.” For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiette’s are now accepting applications for the *Gene Marie Alfaro Scholarship*. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is pursuing a career in nursing or other health related fields. If interested, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624. To be considered, applications must be received by April 14.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to *Theology on Tap’s “Lent: 40 Days in the Desert.”* This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario’s Pizza/John’s Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. On March 26, St. Matthew Church parishioner Dean Nikodemski will speak on Christ’s passion, what it means and what it has to do with us today. Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow*, a grief education event, will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., March 26 at 7 p.m. Presenter is Janice Olive of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region. For more information, call BJ at (704) 362-5047 ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *respect life Mass* will be celebrated March 28 at 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Immediately after Mass there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. You may either stay in prayer or go pray the rosary with Father Reid at a local abortion facility. The morning will conclude with Benediction upon Father Reid’s return. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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MARCH 20, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 20

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Papal preacher says intelligent design is truth of faith, not science

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Affirming the reality of an intelligent design for the creation and development of the universe is not a scientific theory, but a statement of faith, said the preacher of the papal household.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, offering a Lenten meditation to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials March 13, said the controversy that has arisen between scientists supporting evolution and religious believers promoting creationism or intelligent design is due mainly to a confusion between scientific theory and the truths of faith.

The intelligent design theory asserts that the development and evolution of life is such a hugely complex process that a supreme being, God, must be directly involved in it. While some proponents of intelligent design claim that it is a

scientifically valid theory, most scientists dismiss it as pseudoscience.

The arguments, Father Cantalamessa said, are due to the fact that, "in my opinion, there is not a clear enough distinction between intelligent design as a scientific theory and intelligent design as a truth of faith."

While science and evolution can explain part of the history of creation and how life exists, they cannot explain why, he said.

"Even those who eliminate the idea of God from the horizon don't eliminate the mystery," the preacher said.

"We know everything about the world, except how it started. The believer is convinced that the Bible furnishes precisely this missing first page. There, as on the title page of every book, is the name of the author and the title of the work," he said.

for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. St. Peregrine is the patron saint of cancer and incurable diseases. This healing prayer service will be offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

MINT HILL — Deacon Rafael Torres will lead the *Stations of the Cross in Spanish* at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Thursdays during Lent at 6:15 p.m. There will be a Lenten Retreat in Spanish with Deacon Edwin Rodriguez March 21 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (704) 846-7753.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., is offering a *Retreat for Men* March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Biss Hall. The theme: "Do not be afraid, I am with you always" will address the need to depend on the Lord for his support especially in troubled times. The retreat and parking (in the Green Parking Garage) are free. For more information, call (704) 332-2901 or visit the Web site at www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass in Polish* will be held at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Palm Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. Confessions will be available from 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — The youth group at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, will present *Living Stations* on Good Friday, April 10 at 12 p.m. They will take us through Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and then through the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join in this meditation on the Lord's passion.

BELMONT — "Obtaining Stem Cells: Should We Take The Whole To Heal A Part?" an exploration on the ethics of future adult stem cell versus embryonic stem cell research will be held

at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., March 25 at 7:30 p.m. Presenter will be Dr. Grattan Brown, assistant professor of theology at Belmont Abbey College. The presentation is free and open to the public, and will take place in the Mezzanine of the Abbot Walter Coggin Student Commons. To register for the event, RSVP to Jillian Maisano at JillianMaisano@bac.edu or (704) 461-6869.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A screening of the documentary, "Love Lived on Death Row," will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., March 26, 7-9 p.m. The documentary tells the true story of the Syriani sibling's journey from hate and anger to love and forgiveness for their father who was sentenced to death for the 1990 murder of their mother. A panel discussion will follow the screening. For more information, call Jeannine Martin (336) 294-4696 ext. 225.

HIGH POINT — The Eagle's Nest, Immaculate Heart of Mary School's kindergarten-readiness program, is hosting an *open house* March 24, from 6 until 7:30 p.m. at 4145 Johnson St. Prospective students and parents will have the opportunity to tour the classroom, meet the teachers and discover what this unique program has to offer. Application and admission information also will be available. All faiths are welcome. For more information, contact the school at (336) 887-2613 or visit www.ihm-school.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 22 (5 p.m.)
Pastor Installation of Capuchin Franciscan Father Nicholas Mormando
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

March 25
Episcopal ordination of Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston
Charleston, South Carolina

March 28 (5 p.m.)
Boy Scout Camporee Mass
Camp Belk, Mint Hill

March 29 (12:30 p.m.)
Annual Youth Lenten Pilgrimage
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

Pope declares year of the priest to inspire spiritual perfection

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests.

The pope will open the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19 — the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square June 19, 2010.

The pope made the announcement during an audience March 16 with members of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

He met with some 70 participants of the congregation's March 16-18 plenary assembly, which focused on the missionary identity of the priest and his mission to sanctify, teach and govern.

During this jubilee year, the pope will also proclaim St. John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world's priests. At present he is considered the patron saint of parish priests.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a "true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ," the

pope said.

In his address, Pope Benedict said the priestly ministry consists of total adherence to the ecclesial tradition of participating "in a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the apostles made their own."

Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing, he said.

The pope underlined the necessary and "indispensable struggle for moral perfection which must dwell in every authentically priestly heart."

The pope said he was calling for the special year for priests in an effort to foster the priest's yearning "for spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends."

Priests also must be "present, identifiable and recognizable — for their judgment of faith, their personal virtues and their attire — in the fields of culture and charity which have always been at the heart of the church's mission," he said.

Meeting of the minds



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI listens as Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen, chief rabbi of Haifa, Israel, speaks during their meeting at the Vatican March 12. Representatives of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel asked the pope to make Holocaust studies a required subject in Catholic schools, saying it could help stamp out anti-Semitism in future generations.

Missionaries of Charity re-elect Sister Nirmala as superior general

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity, the congregation founded by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, re-elected Sister Nirmala Joshi as superior general March 13.

But because the order's religious superior general can be elected for only two consecutive terms, her third term in office will require papal approval, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

More than 160 electors from around the world cast their votes in a secluded Missionaries of Charity house during

the last phase of the congregation's 10th general chapter, which began Feb. 1.

Archbishop Lucas Sirkar of Calcutta presided over the election of the superior general and four councilors.

According to the constitution of the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation holds its general chapter every six years to address major congregational issues and other matters. It requires that the successful candidate for superior general receive an absolute majority of votes after three rounds of secret ballots.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Oratorian Father Joseph Pearce watches as members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians place a wreath on the grave of the first pastor of St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly March 17.

Remembering their roots

Irish Catholics pay tribute to immigrants on St. Patrick's Day

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MOUNT HOLLY — Irish-American Catholics gathered on St. Patrick's Day to pay tribute to those who helped plant Catholicism's roots in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) held a ceremony and Mass at St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly March 17.

In the church cemetery, the Hibernians placed a wreath on the grave of Father T. J. Cronin, the church's first pastor, and U.S. and Irish flags on the graves of the Irish immigrants who built the church in 1843.

"We're here to pay tribute to those who came before us," said Janice Donahue of the LAOH.

"They came from Ireland with nothing, but they were strong in their faith," she said of the immigrants, who mined for gold along the Catawba River.

"This church was their place to come and talk about their home, their families and their faith," said Donahue.

The small, white clapboard church

accommodates nearly 100 people. It has no electricity, no bathrooms; six big windows were used to light and heat the church.

St. Joseph Church is the fourth Catholic church built in the state. In 1979, it was designated as a National Historical Site by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Oratorian Father Joseph Pearce, AOH and LAOH state chaplain, celebrated Mass after the ceremony.

The Hibernians hoped the Mass would put faith at the forefront of some local St. Patrick's Day activities.

"In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday, and it needs to be here in the United States," said Joe Dougherty of the AOH.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, founded in New York in 1836, describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States.

WANT MORE PICS?

More photos of the St. Patrick's Day ceremony at St. Joseph Church are available online at www.charlottediocese.org.

SAINTLY VISIT



COURTESY PHOTO

Doug Foley, parent of second-grader Claudia Foley, dresses as St. Patrick for a presentation on the Irish saint for the student body of St. Ann School in Charlotte on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Foley then visited all the classrooms and distributed shamrock stickers to the students, faculty and staff.

Take the whole to heal a part?

Belmont Abbey professor to clarify stem cell debate

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT



Dr. Grattan Brown

BELMONT — "As faithful citizens, Catholics should form their consciences on this issue so that they can effectively cut through false rhetoric and oppose all killing of embryonic human life," said Dr. Grattan Brown.

Brown, assistant professor of theology at Belmont Abbey College, was speaking about the issue of stem cell research. He will present "Obtaining Stem Cells: Should We Take the Whole to Heal a Part?" at Belmont Abbey College March 25.

"Some think sacrificing embryos is no big deal, but think about it: we all began that way," Brown said in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

"In contrast to other types of stem cell research, embryonic stem cell research systematically destroys human life and should not be accepted by any humane society," he said.

The debate about the morality of different types of stem cell research came to the forefront with President Barack Obama's March 9 signing of an executive order reversing the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

Calling the research "immoral," the National Catholic Bioethics Center recently explained how embryonic stem cell research has failed to yield positive results and how patients treated with these methods have reported tumors and tissue rejection.

"Recent advances have obviated the need for destroying human embryos to access pluripotent stem cells," the center said in a March 9 statement.

"Scientists have demonstrated that they can reprogram ordinary human skin cells into pluripotent stems cells which will not cause tumors or rejection. There are several ethical stem cell research alternatives that already have successfully treated thousands of patients," the statement said.

Some recent successes in ethical stem cell research include treatments for cardiac disease, pediatric brain tumors, cerebral palsy and blood diseases.

Misunderstanding of the research is not limited to Catholics, Brown said.

"There is a lot of false rhetoric and emotional manipulation out there," he said. "Most of the time, evaluating

research involves balancing benefits and risks. This method works pretty well until you consider means of research that automatically offend dignity in some way, like killing."

"This issue will impact both our lives and our faithfulness because practices like embryo destructive research greatly influence our society and culture," Brown said.

Contact Correspondent Mary B. Worthington at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

WANT TO GO?

"Obtaining Stem Cells: Should We Take The Whole To Heal A Part?" begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 in the student commons at Belmont Abbey College. It is free and open to the public.

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FROM THE COVER

Man's quest for meaning leads to monastic life

CONVERT, from page 1

popular religions," said Odom, who is now a parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

After looking into other world religions, he found that he was being drawn back to his Christian roots.

He began reading books about Catholic saints — John of the Cross, Padre Pio, Teresa of Avila and Francis of Assisi.

"I could feel or understand what they were saying," said Odom. "I thought, 'I want to follow these people to Jesus.'"

He also began reading books about Mary, particularly about her apparitions in Fatima and Lourdes. It was around that same time that Odom decided he wanted to become a monk.

"I sold my house, gave my car away and I moved to Greenville, North Carolina," he said.

He wanted to start living a simple, monastic kind of life.

"I decided there was no sense in waiting until I go to into a monastery, I might as well start now," he said.

Through further research, Odom discovered Belmont Abbey, which prompted his move to Charlotte.

"Belmont Abbey was the closest monastery that I knew about," he said. "In my head, monasteries were places where there weren't a lot of people."

He was surprised to find Belmont

Abbey at the center of a bustling college campus and decided he would probably be better off in a more secluded environment.

"When I came to Charlotte, I came here with nothing. So I basically was in the men's shelter for three or four months," he said.

In the meantime, he got a temporary job, found a place to live and began attending Our Lady of Consolation Church. It was there that he met Dale Brown, pastoral associate and coordinator of the parish Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program.

Brown said that Odom's conversion was unique because he felt drawn to religious life from the beginning.

"He knew where he wanted to go but he just didn't understand how to get there," said Brown, who was able to point him in the right direction.

"I said to him, 'Rodney you have to keep in mind that God is not going anywhere,'" said Brown, as she explained to Odom that he would have to go through RCIA before he could become a monk.

"Once he came to fully understand what the church teaches, he was willing to abide by those teachings," she said.

After his meeting with Brown, Odom said his approach to his conversion process shifted.

"In my mind I was fired up to get through the process," said Odom, but he was beginning to understand that he would have to be patient.

During his time in RCIA, Odom continued his search for a monastery



COURTESY PHOTO

Rodney Odom is pictured in an April 2008 photo at Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C. during a two-week visit to the monastery. Odom, a recent convert to Catholicism, is planning to become a monk.

with a more cloistered environment.

In his search, he came across Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C.

When he visited Mepkin Abbey for the first time, he stayed for three days.

He went for a second visit in fall 2007 and stayed for two weeks.

"During those first visits I guess I was just extremely nervous," said Odom, reflecting on the difficulty he had adjusting to the strict monastic lifestyle, which included rising at 3 a.m. each day for prayer.

After he became Catholic at the Easter Vigil in 2008, Odom arranged to make a 30-day visit to Mepkin Abbey in February 2009.

"Each time he came back with a better attitude," said Brown.

"When he came back from the month-long visit, he had a glow on him that I had never seen before," she said.

Odom agreed that his most recent visit was also the most beneficial. He attributes that to a stronger devotion to the Eucharist and a more open state of mind.

"I think a lot of it had to do with the fact that I had been dedicating myself to go to Mass five times a week," he said.

In keeping with his simplistic lifestyle, Odom relied on public transportation to get to church — a three-and-a-half hour roundtrip journey by bus.

"I was now used to dedicating a significant portion of my life to God," he said.

Going to Mass became a priority for Odom. It became "more important than getting sleep," he said.

"Somehow I must have been made empty," he said, because "this time when I went to Mepkin, I received a lot."

"After the first week, your mind starts to quiet down," he said of his month-long stay at the monastery. "You sit and you start to discover things that you never knew you could discover just by sitting."

During his visit, Odom also had a chance to meet with the abbot and several of the priests.

He filled out an application, and if all goes according to plan, he will enter the monastery in September.

"The reason I became Catholic is because of the saints," said Odom, "reading about the saints and how they lived their lives."

On his journey from the book-lined walls of the Philadelphia public library to the tranquil Mepkin Abbey monastery, Odom has learned that certain things in life just take time.

"Patience was not one of my strong points," he said. But "it is a characteristic of monastic life."

"If you don't learn patience then you can't be a monk," said Odom.

But sometimes he has a hard time hiding his enthusiasm.

"Once you discover the love of God and how sincere it is and how pure it is, it's hard not to follow it," he said.

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FROM THE COVER

Iraqi refugees find hope, seek better future in N.C.

IRAQ, from page 1

Psalm 55:23 — "Cast your care upon the Lord, who will give you support" — and the words from Joshua 1:9 — "Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go."

Amal and her children were resettled in Charlotte in February through the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte. The past few years of their lives have been fraught with peril and danger.

She and her husband were middle-class, well-educated Christians with promising futures in the construction of new homes in Baghdad. The industry collapsed with the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Shortly after, Amal and her husband — both of whom speak English — secured jobs as translators for the coalition forces. Working closely with U.S. troops, Amal saw the good they were trying to accomplish in Iraq, especially the democratic way of life they hoped to establish after the fall of Saddam Hussein. She was grateful for their efforts.

Then her cousin was murdered. A message from the terrorists assured Amal the bullet had been meant for her, because she "was a Christian and was working with the enemy," she said.

Both she and her husband quit their jobs as translators and went into hiding.

Terrorists next kidnapped Amal's brother and his family had to pay \$20,000 for his release. He returned home with a message for Amal: the terrorists would find her sooner or later, and kill her.

So Amal and her family fled to

Jordan, praying en route that the border would be open when they arrived. Amal believes her prayers were answered — when they arrived at the border, they were allowed to cross, but the border was then closed to the cars behind them.

Amal's faith did not falter, even when her husband's passport was stolen and he was subsequently deported back to Iraq. There he found a note from the Islamic Army of Iraq pinned on the door of their home: "You are Christian and work with the Americans. So we are taking your house and are making it our headquarters."

Amal's husband stayed with relatives, but he was soon kidnapped. After a year, the family made contact with the terrorist group and paid a ransom for his release.

Today he remains in Iraq in hiding, trying to find a way to leave the country.

Challenges ahead

Many Iraqi families have been torn apart since the invasion and subsequent violence. A significant number of Christians have already fled, and continue to flee, Iraq and the Middle East.

Latin-rite Archbishop Jean Sleiman of Baghdad, in an interview with Vatican Radio Feb. 23, said Christians in countries like Iraq and the Palestinian territories leave out of "fear of Islamic fundamentalism and being legally discriminated against" in an Islamic republic or under Shariah, the religiously based law of Islam.

He said the international community must help Iraq build peace and democracy by guaranteeing "the primacy of law and primacy of nation."

"Many problems will be solved because (a state of) law equals equality and justice," he said.

Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office helped resettle nearly 400 refugees in 2008. While the number of refugees has increased over the years, federal funding has decreased.

"This is a challenge for us," said Cira Ponce, Refugee Resettlement



CNS PHOTO BY ERIK DE CASTRO, REUTERS

A resident holds his rosary beads as U.S. soldiers patrolling a market walk past him in Mosul, about 240 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 2. Thousands of Christian families in Mosul were forced to leave last fall after numerous murders of Christians.

Office director.

"This ministry is a service God has blessed and, we trust, God will continue to help us find the means to provide for people like Amal," she said.

Amal said democracy and freedom are precious to her, and she continues to hope both will prevail and endure in Iraq.

Until that day, she looks forward to the new life her family can create in America. She dreams one of her children will grow up and become a senator.

She currently is looking for work to help support her family and a Catholic

parish to join, but a lack of transportation has made both difficult.

In the meantime, she prays every night for her husband's safety and looks forward to the day the family will be reunited.

"I know that God will bring him home. I trust in my God," she said.

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

Ann Kilkelly is development director for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Championing women's rights

Local Catholics participate in annual U.N. commission on women

BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK CITY—The first two weeks of March found tens of thousands of women from around the world at the United Nations in New York City for the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Catholics from the Diocese of Charlotte were among those bringing the Catholic Church's hope-filled message of the dignity of women to the March 2-13 commission, which focused on the role of women as caretakers, specifically in the context of HIV and AIDS.

The CSW is a functional panel of the U.N. Economic and Social Council and is devoted solely to gender equality and the advancement of women.

Representatives of member states gather each year at the U.N. headquarters to assess progress on gender equality, set global standards and formulate tangible policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide.

Jessica Rohaly, 20, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and a sophomore at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, attended the commission — her second — with fellow students, faculty and members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who sponsor the college.

Rohaly helped to develop document language for the commission regarding the importance of education for girls.

Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychologist and parishioner of St. Leo the Great

"The ability to get my voice heard on this topic was very important to me."

— Jessica Rohaly

Church in Winston-Salem, held workshops with Concerned Women for America for world leaders on the detrimental aftereffects of abortion on women's health.

Both women reported success in their missions.

For Rohaly, success was hearing the text developed by her group proposed during a presentation by a delegate from the United States.

"While I do not know whether our language will be used in the final document, the most exciting part of the conference was to hear our words used," said Rohaly.

Speaking on the issue of the rights and dignity of women, Rohaly explained how girls in poor countries are often pulled from school to care for a family member afflicted with HIV and AIDS.

"The effects of the epidemic of AIDS often falls on women and girls," she said. "Even if living with the disease themselves, they are often expected to perform extensive domestic duties along with caring for sick family members."

Shuping, a participant in various U.N.



CNS PHOTO BY CHAZ MUTH

A group of students from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland Feb. 27 look over some of the U.N. proposals concerning equality for women globally shortly before leaving campus for New York to attend a conference of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. From left is Jessica Rohaly, 20, of Charlotte, N.C.; Micah Yousefi, 22, of Forest Hill, Md.; Ashley Chesson, 22, of Chevy Chase, Md.; and Barbara Bailey, 59, of Baltimore, Md.

commissions since 2005, specializes in psychological care of women and men after abortion.

Most recently, she co-authored a study in the Journal of Psychiatric Research indicating an increased incidence of a variety of mental health problems after abortion based on analysis of the national comorbidity survey.

Shuping shared some examples of attendees at her workshops who thanked her for her research, explaining how it will help them in their home countries where they are resisting pressure for normalizing or legalizing abortion.

"Pro-woman, pro-life non-governmental organizations have a very important role to play, even if abortion is not the specific topic of the commission," said Shuping.

"Because there is a constant pressure by the U.N. to make abortion a universal right, it is all the more important to educate on the issue during the CSW," she said. "The CSW should look to a long range of women's issues, not just the one issue addressed during a particular conference. Abortion is not a solution because it causes so much pain for women."

"Why not educate the women of the world on the negative impact of abortion since so many are involved in promoting it," she suggested. "Let's let the nations know the consequences."

Finding solutions

Though abortion was not the commission's focus, Samantha Singson, director of Government Relations for Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, said "the United States delegation openly stated that 'sexual and reproductive health and rights' would be a priority issue for the Obama administration."

"Reproductive health" is a phrase commonly used to refer to access to abortion, contraceptives and sterilization.

Both Shuping and Rohaly spoke of the challenges of bringing forth

Catholic Church teachings in a way that is acceptable to a secular or non-Catholic audience.

"If we try to evangelize the culture by saying, 'the pope says,' we don't get too far," said Shuping. "However, when you show the scientific data on how abortion hurts women, people are better able to understand."

"We have to get wording into documents that are logical and moral without using religion," said Rohaly. "It's a back-door approach."

The Vatican regularly sends delegations to the commissions. The late Pope John Paul II took a particular interest in the activities of the United Nations regarding the dignity of women.

On the occasion of the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, he wrote "Letter to Women," in which he extolled women's dignity and perseverance despite unfavorable conditions throughout history.

"Women's dignity has often been unacknowledged and their prerogatives misrepresented; they have often been relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude," wrote Pope John Paul.

"We need only think of how the gift of motherhood is often penalized rather than rewarded, even though humanity owes its very survival to this gift ... Women will increasingly play a part in the solution of the serious problems of the future," he wrote.

Rohaly said it was in studying Catholic Church documents and teachings such as "Letter to Women" throughout her high school years that propelled her to take up the challenge and come to the defense of women.

"I just couldn't pass up the opportunity," she said prior to the commission. "The ability to get my voice heard on this topic was very important to me."

Contact Correspondent Mary B. Worthington at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

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To embrace a continent

Pope says trip to Africa will focus on continent's hopes, challenges

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of a series regarding Pope Benedict XVI's March 17-23 trip to Africa and the October Synod of Bishops on Africa.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said his trip to Africa would be a missionary journey highlighting the continent's challenges, its enormous potential and its "profound religious soul."

The pope, speaking two days before his departure for Cameroon and Angola, said he was not bringing a political or social program to Africa, but simply the Gospel message of love that is "capable of transforming the world."

"This is the grace that can also renew Africa, because it generates an irresistible power of peace and a deep and radical reconciliation," the pope told pilgrims at his noon blessing March 15.

"With this visit, I intend to embrace the entire African continent: its thousands of differences and its profound religious soul; its ancient cultures and its difficult path of development and reconciliation; its serious problems, its painful wounds and its enormous potential and hopes," he said.

The pope dedicated the trip to St. Joseph, whose feast is March 19, and entrusted to the saint the challenges

and hopes of all segments of the African population.

"In particular, I am thinking of the victims of hunger, of disease, of injustice, of fratricidal conflicts and every form of violence that unfortunately continues to strike adults and children, as well as missionaries, priests, men and women religious, and volunteers," he said.

The pope said that among the main purposes of his weeklong visit was to confirm the faith of Catholics and encourage all Christians in ecumenical cooperation. He said the trip, his first to the African continent, was inspired in part by the evangelizing efforts of St. Paul.

"I depart for Africa with the awareness that I have nothing to propose and to give to those I will meet except Christ and the good news of his cross, a mystery of supreme love, of divine love that overcomes every human resistance and makes possible even forgiveness and love for one's enemies," he said.

The pope spent March 17-20 in Cameroon, where he met with African bishops and hand-delivered the working document for the Synod of Bishops for Africa, to be held in Rome next October.

The pope will visit Angola March 20-23, celebrating Masses, meeting with civil and religious leaders and meeting with young people in a soccer stadium.

It is his 11th foreign trip since his election as pope in 2005.

Angola enjoys growth but still recovers from deadly civil war

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of Africa's major oil producers, Angola is also one of the world's poorest countries.

Most people live on less than \$1 per day, and more than half of the population is unemployed. The average life expectancy is about 38 years.

Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975 and is still recovering from the physical, social and political repercussions of a 27-year civil war that broke out soon after.

Fighting began between two longtime rivals, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, known as MPLA, and the National Union for Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA.

The conflict evolved into a prominent Cold War battle, with the Soviet Union backing the MPLA and the United States supporting UNITA. A peace agreement was signed in 2002, but Angola's constitutional republic remains in transition.

The government is highly centralized and dominated by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the MPLA, but elections have been deemed free and fair. Dos Santos held legislative elections in September 2008 and announced plans to hold presidential elections in 2009.

According to reports by Human Rights Watch and the U.S. State Department, Angola's human rights record is marred by a string of abuses, including unlawful killings by police,

forced eviction without compensation, restrictions on freedoms of speech and press, and the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians by the Angolan army.

Angola has enjoyed recent economic improvements. High prices in the international oil market have worked to Angola's advantage as a supplier of crude oil to the U.S. and China. Postwar reconstruction efforts and the resettlement of displaced people have led to growth in construction and agriculture.

Catholics in Angola number about 8.6 million, more than half of the 15.5 million total population. The ratio of priests to Catholics in the country is 1-to-10,800, one of the highest in Africa.

The latest Vatican statistics show there are 18 hospitals in Angola owned or administered by the Catholic Church, as well as 42 orphanages, four marriage-counseling centers and 25 centers for social education.

In total the church runs 454 social-service institutions in Angola.

Near the end of the war, church leaders in Angola promoted peace efforts by holding national and diocesan councils to establish humanitarian programs and help rebuild the country.

The bishops' conference of Angola and Sao Tome joined with other Christian churches at an ecumenical peace forum in 1999 to bring Angolan churches together to work for peace and to encourage dialogue with the international community.



CNS PHOTO BY SAABU/GALBE.COM

A priest teaches philosophy to students at the Seminary of St. Therese of Mvolye in Yaounde, Cameroon, Feb. 9. Boys from a minor seminary at the institution may advance to the major seminary to become priests. Pope Benedict XVI is traveling in Cameroon and Angola until March 23 on his first papal visit to Africa.

Cameroon seen as stable country, but also highly corrupt

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cameroon was created in 1961 by the unification of French Cameroon and part of British Cameroon.

Situated on the West coast of Central Africa, the country's general stability and fertile land have brought about the development of agriculture, infrastructure and a profitable petroleum industry.

Its economy is dependent on commodity exports; per capita income is about \$2,000 a year.

President Paul Biya's Cameroon People's Democratic Movement has retained power for more than 25 years. National elections have been held, but opposition parties say they have been unfair, and human rights organizations have faulted the government for restricting freedoms of speech, press, assembly and association.

According to the U.S. State Department, the country's corruption level is among the highest in the world. A report issued in December 2007 by Transparency International, the global coalition against corruption, said more than 80 percent of Cameroonians

surveyed considered the nation's police and political parties to be corrupt.

The number of Catholics in Cameroon is rising steadily. In the 40-year period from 1920 to 1960, the number of Catholics rose from 60,000 to 700,000.

The most recent Vatican statistics tally about 4.8 million Catholics, roughly 26 percent of Cameroon's 18.2 million total population.

The first indigenous priests were ordained in 1935. In 1988, Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi was the first Cameroonian named to the College of Cardinals.

Vatican statistics show there are 23 hospitals, owned or administered by the Catholic Church. The church runs 10 centers for the care of people with Hansen's disease, 12 orphanages and 18 centers for social education.

In total there are 460 social-service centers run by the church in Cameroon.

Cameroon's literacy rate is among the highest in Africa. More than 400,000 students are enrolled in schools, including universities, run by the Catholic Church.

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On a road to peace

In Kenya, dioceses work to control ever-present ethnic tension

BY LIZ QUIRIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of a series regarding Pope Benedict XVI's March 17-23 trip to Africa and the October Synod of Bishops on Africa.

ELDOROT, Kenya — It was the Christmas holidays, and diocesan offices were closed. James Kimisoi, head of the peace and justice commission of the Diocese of Eldoret, planned to be in the office only to pay people who monitored the polls in the December 2007 national elections.

Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner and sworn in as Kenya's president an hour later. Then the violence began, said Kimisoi.

Homes were looted and burned — some with the people locked inside — and some Kenyans were beaten and killed. International observers claimed the election was rigged, and as supporters of opposition leader Raila Odinga expressed outrage, the violence escalated, pitting rival ethnic groups

against each other.

The bishop and those diocesan workers who could safely make it to the diocesan compound opened the gates and offered shelter to about 10,000 people.

By Feb. 28, 2008, when a power-sharing government was announced and Odinga became Kenya's prime minister, the overt postelection violence had stopped, and all of the diocesan resources were being used to care for the area's displaced people while promoting reconciliation and peace-building.

One year later, the diocese had made great strides in rebuilding trust among neighbors, but church officials had run out of money to provide most of the services offered before the violence began.

Today, many of those displaced by violence remain living in tents instead of their homes. An uneasy peace crisscrosses the country, where many have said violence bubbles just below the surface, ready to explode again.

Part of the unease remains because people do not trust one another, said Father Charles Lukati, development



CNS PHOTO BY LIZ QUIRIN

Girls help move dirt Feb. 18 as youth build a "peace road" between two communities in the Diocese of Eldoret, Kenya. The road symbolizes the trust and the peace the communities are re-establishing after postelection violence tore them apart.

coordinator for the Diocese of Eldoret.

Church officials also said the perpetrators of the violence have not been named or brought to justice, and many worry that if perpetrators are not held accountable for their crimes, the violence will be repeated and possibly escalate.

A government truth commission has drawn up names of perpetrators, but those names have not been made public.

"Without justice there can be no peace," said Msgr. Michael Rop, Eldoret diocesan vicar general.

"The political violence has disrupted pastoral activities," he told Catholic News Service. "This is the biggest disruption anyone has seen."

'A miracle road'

On the other side of the country, on the coast in Malindi, Bishop Francis Baldacchino said the postelection violence "was horrible. Nobody expected such a tragedy."

Once the violence began, Catholic officials focused on helping the displaced and victims of violence. For instance, the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services helped set up water and latrines in the Eldoret church compound when the refugees were camped there.

Many Kenyans have received help to rebuild with grants from the Eldoret Diocese through international church aid agencies like CRS and Caritas Australia.

Voucher programs in villages have given people money to spend on materials to rebuild and replace some of the household items and farm implements destroyed in the violence.

Fraud-reduction processes have been established, and village committees were directed to look first at women and children and single heads of households in determining eligibility.

While not everyone qualified to receive the vouchers, the program has made a difference in villages where it was used.

One project in the Eldoret Diocese brought together people in two villages to build a "peace road."

A portion of the road always existed, and the two villages, which supported different political candidates in the election, belonged to the same parish: St. Mary's Church.

A great deal of mistrust existed between the two villages and spilled over into the parish.

"This is a miracle road," said St. Mary's pastor, Father Thomas Dougherty, a Scottish member of the St. Patrick Missionary Society who has lived in Kenya for many years.

"The Kikuyu (a tribe that supports Kibaki) and the Kalenjins (who support Odinga) are working together on the road. It's a real miracle after what happened to us," he said.

The project requires youths from both villages to work an eight-hour day, and their wages are paid from a grant from Caritas Australia. Elders from both villages mentor the youths.

Since the road is almost finished, the youths are asking for other projects they can work on together.

"The people of both communities are showing the world action," Father Dougherty said. "The country of Kenya is full of talk but little action. A man told me: 'Our words of peace and unity are in this road because we did it together.'"

Eldoret's diocesan director, Kimisoi, said the work that went into the project before it was begun, and the hours and hours of meetings with the bishop and staff have paid off.

"That's why they have not had any difficulties (with the road project)," he said.

Always just below the surface is the issue of land ownership. The violence began as a politically motivated event, then degenerated into ethnic violence.

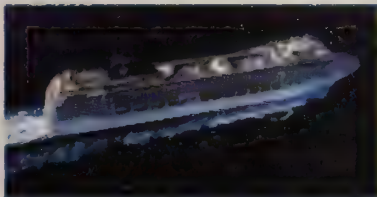
At the core are issues of land ownership that were not settled in the 1960s when the British relinquished colonial ties to the country.

The situation is complicated, said Father Charles Kirui, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Burnt Forest village, but "at the end of the day we're all God's children."

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Books offer food for thought on preparing youths to lead churches

REVIEWED BY DANIEL S. MULHALL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The question "What is the role of young people in the church today?" provides the linkage between two recent books.

The authors of "Awakening Youth Discipleship" argue that young people today have the role of providing leadership in resisting the consumer culture in which they (and we) live. The author of "Reverse Mentoring" argues that young people are ready to take leadership roles in the church today if only the older generations will let them.

Both books provide much food for thought that will be of interest to anyone who works with young people or who is engaged with ministry in the church.

"Awakening Youth Discipleship: Christian Resistance in a Consumer Culture" is a collection of six articles by three college professors and the transcript of a conversation among them — Brian Mahan, Michael Warren and David White.

The articles examine how the consumer culture in which we live shapes the attitudes and behaviors of everyone. Mahan's and White's articles are written from an experiential approach and offer suggestions on what can be done to overcome those cultural biases.

Warren's two articles are written from a more academic perspective and provide a solid basis for the book's argument. Warren writes, "Most youth ministry is reduced to a program of a particular church, rather than an organic statement of its inner life."

For Warren, ministry is a way of life, and if we want to form young people to live Gospel-centered lives in a consumer culture, the church community must first learn how to live this way.

As Warren bluntly puts it: "When the local church is a living sign of the good news, then its ministry to youth is likewise a living sign, flowing out of what the church is living."

Rev. Earl Creps is a pastor, ministries consultant and university professor within the evangelical Christian community.

His book, "Reverse Mentoring: How Young Leaders Can Transform the Church and Why We Should Let Them,"

is directed primarily to those who serve as youth pastors in evangelical churches, but also raises significant ideas and issues that will be of interest to those who work with youths and young adult ministries in the Catholic Church and to those concerned about the church of the future.

Rev. Creps writes that the church of the next generation must be shaped by the members of this next generation and not by the old folks who are in the church's leadership today. Through a series of anecdotal tales, he explains how much he has learned about using technology more effectively from younger people.

From these stories Rev. Creps then argues that young people today are ready to take leadership roles in the church but that they are not allowed to because the current leadership isn't willing to get out of the way.

The goal of the book "is to prepare spiritual leaders to apply reverse mentoring as a spiritual discipline, a way of experiencing personal formation through exercising the kind of humility that invites younger people to become our tutors."

The concept of reverse mentoring is taken from the field of business, which recognizes that the input of younger generations is needed in order to build products that will be of value and interest to their peers.

The concept certainly holds true for churches: In order to attract younger members, churches must understand the needs of these young members and make ways for them to influence what the church offers and how it is offered.

The value in this book is what it reveals about how different the lives of "Generation X" — those born between 1965 and 1976 — and "millennials" — born from 1977 to 2000 — are from those of the baby boomer generation that now holds most leadership positions in churches.

Pastoral leaders interested in reaching out to these younger generations will find much here that will assist them in this task.

Mulhall is the national catechetical adviser to a Catholic textbook publishing company.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 29, 2009

March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15
- 2) Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel: John 12:20-33

Sacrifice is needed to find more fulfilling future

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I watched my young friend Curtis play in his final collegiate basketball game recently. It was a joy.

He'd had an outstanding season, reaching peak performance at the end of his college career. A few days earlier, he admitted to his mother that he was feeling the bittersweet emotions that come with the end of "the best time of my life."

I remember four years ago when he played in his last high school game, and he was feeling similar conflict, sad about leaving his teammates and excited about beginning again on the college level.

Back then, his sadness was tempered by some difficult struggles with unfair treatment and the resulting lack of self-confidence and disappointment.

As a 17-year-old, though, Curtis was an extraordinary example to his friends as he quietly, humbly endured those trials without public complaint, thanks to the guidance and support of his family who

assured him of his worth.

His friends and family since then have been gratified by his development and wonderful success as a college player and his growth and capability as a man. His college career was everything his high school experience wasn't, although the testing of the latter certainly prepared and strengthened him for it.

Curtis' family and friends are sad we won't get to watch his graceful performance on the court anymore. But we also know that when he leaves it behind, there is much ahead in his next stage of life that will be even richer and more fulfilling.

The Gospel for this fifth Sunday of Lent tells us — as Jesus told his disciples — that the only way to a new and greater life is by leaving the old one behind. The grain of wheat cannot serve its bigger purpose until it falls to the ground to grow and produce much fruit, he explained in simple terms.

Jesus felt troubled at leaving his friends in this earthly life, but he knew God's truth — that it was necessary in order for him to live his glorified life.

That included his promise that those who love and follow him also will follow him out of this lesser life and to a greater life with God.

Questions:

When have you had to leave a place or end a situation in order to begin "a new life"? In retrospect, why was it necessary for the old circumstance to die away? How does this prepare you for celebrating Easter?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22-28

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21; Monday (St. Toribio de Mogrovejo), Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; Wednesday (The Annunciation of the Lord), Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33; Monday (Lenten Weekday), Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; Wednesday, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; Thursday (St. Francis of Paola), Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; Friday, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; Saturday (St. Isidore), Ezekiel 37:21-28, Jeremiah 31:10-13, John 11:45-56.

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CNS PHOTO BY BOB ERVIN, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb., and Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb., pose in the studios of KVSS Spirit Catholic Radio in Omaha. Spirit Catholic Radio began broadcasting Jan. 29 and covers large parts of the Diocese of Lincoln and Archdiocese of Omaha. It reaches 1.5 million listeners.

Nebraska-based Spirit Catholic Radio expands reach with new signal

Broadcast now reaches 1.5 million listeners

BY S.L. HANSEN
CATHOLIC-NEWS SERVICE

LINCOLN, Neb. — After a decade of discussions, years of planning and fundraising and countless prayers, Spirit Catholic Radio is now broadcasting with a new FM signal from Lincoln, Neb., reaching a potential audience of 1.5 million listeners in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

Spirit Catholic Radio, which has been available in Omaha for 10 years, broadcasts a mix of contemporary Christian music and Catholic programming from the EWTN Radio Network, St. Joseph Communications and St. Joseph's Radio, Catholic Answers, Ave Maria and Starboard Communications.

"There's a sense of joy and excitement in my heart that I've never experienced before," John Soukup, manager of the 102.7 FM station in Lincoln, said about the new broadcast outlet.

Spirit Catholic Radio, operated by VSS Catholic Communications, will maintain its main studio in Omaha in addition to its new Lincoln studio and office. Its broadcasts will be heard on both 88.9 FM in Omaha and 102.7 FM

until an equipment transfer is completed in early spring.

The broadcast enterprise, which also has a Web site at www.kvss.com, is supported totally by listeners' donations and business underwriters.

Currently, the average listener donation is about \$210 a year, or just shy of \$20 a month. But there are roughly 215 families who are donating \$1,000 or more a year. Underwriting by businesses provides about a fourth of the budget.

It is "a wonderful way to get the word out about your business," Soukup said.

With a new station and a broader reach, "the benefits are going to be huge for businesses and groups who underwrite" Spirit Catholic Radio's programming, he added.

Not only are Catholic business owners interested in underwriting KVSS, but so are Protestant owners, said Soukup.

"They like the alternative format to advertising on secular stations," he said.

A contribution of any size qualifies as membership in the Spirit Catholic Radio family.

"If all you can do is pray, you're a member," said executive director Jim Carroll.

"We can't thank people enough for the many prayers and support they've given to this endeavor," he added. "It's only by God's grace and a lot of hard work by many good people that we were able to make this all happen."

Spirit Catholic Radio began broadcasting on 102.7 FM the afternoon of Jan. 29, after the paperwork was signed and VSS Catholic Communications officially took over the station.

The day had no special spiritual significance, but a quote from the day's Gospel reading from St. Mark seemed especially fitting: "Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear."

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Deacons recommit to ministry at annual Mass

DEACONS, from page 1

said Bishop Jugis.

In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is the first of the three ranks in ordained ministry, and a permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married.

As ordained ministers, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various liturgies of the church.

In the diocese, all active deacons also are required to participate in continuing education and an annual retreat. Like the priests, who recommit themselves to priestly service at the annual chrism Mass during Holy Week, the permanent deacons gather for a similar recommitment Mass.

It is God's "grace which empowers you to do your ministry," Bishop Jugis told the deacons during his homily.

The bishop said that during the

deacons' ordinations, "we prayed to the Holy Spirit to help you faithfully carry out your ministry."

"You promised to work with humble charity and to be faithful in proclaiming the faith," said the bishop at the recommitment Mass. "You promised to serve the Lord. Now you must live that moment and put it into practice."

To be successful in their ministries, the deacons must be "men of prayer," said Bishop Jugis.

"It was the Lord who imposed these joy-filled obligations as you became his stewards. Therefore, always refer back to the Lord — the one who calls ... always go back to the source, to Jesus," said the bishop.

"Orient yourself to Jesus ... and renew your commitment to him, and strengthen the bond of friendship with him ... and between one another."

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by e-mailing gpotkay@triad.rr.com.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Permanent deacons and their wives are pictured during the deacons' annual Mass of recommitment at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 14.

Diaconal Assignments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following diaconal assignments:

Deacon George Szalony, assigned as chaplain, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, and formation director for diocesan permanent diaconate, while continuing diaconal ministry at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, effective Sept. 11, 2008.

Deacon William Griffin, assigned to St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, effective Feb. 2.

Diaconal Retirements

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following diaconal retirements:

Deacon Gordon Forester, retirement from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, effective Sept. 17, 2008.

Deacon Joseph Smith, retirement from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, effective Sept. 23, 2008.

Deacon John Weisenhorn, retirement from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, effective Oct. 14, 2008.

Deacon Bernard Wenning, Jr., retirement from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, effective March 3.

Pastoral Assignments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following priestly assignments:

Redemptorist Father Francis Ezanikatt, as parochial vicar, St. James the Greater Church in Concord, effective Feb. 4.

Redemptorist Father Vang Cong Tran, in residence, St. James the Greater Church in Concord, effective Feb. 18.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Nicholas Mormando, pastor, Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, effective Feb. 27.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz, pastor Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, effective March 3.

Vincentian Father Thomas Hynes, parochial vicar, St. Mary Church in Greensboro, temporary assignment effective Feb. 18.

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FROM THE COVER

Pope responds to criticism over excommunication decision

POPE, from page 1

the extent of the Holocaust was "an unforeseen mishap" — one that could have been anticipated, however, by paying more attention to information easily available on the Internet.

The pope said he was particularly saddened at the reaction of some Catholics who seemed willing to believe he was changing direction on Catholic-Jewish relations and were ready to "attack me with open hostility." He thanked "our Jewish friends" who helped clarify the matter and restore a sense of trust.

The Vatican published the letter in six languages March 12. Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, called it a "unique, exceptional document" for

its direct and personal style, and said it showed the pope had listened carefully to what people were saying.

The pope said he was taking the unusual step of writing to the bishops because the episode had generated "a discussion more heated than any we have seen for a long time," both inside and outside the church. He said his overture to Bishop Williamson and the other three bishops of the Society of St. Pius X was designed to close a wound and bring unity to the church, by lifting excommunications incurred in 1988 and opening the way to dialogue with the society.

But when Bishop Williamson's comments about the Holocaust were circulated, "it suddenly appeared as something completely different: as the repudiation of reconciliation between Christians and Jews, and thus as the reversal of what the (Second Vatican)

Council had laid down in this regard to guide the church's path," he said.

As a result, he said, "an avalanche of protests was unleashed, whose bitterness laid bare wounds deeper than those of the present moment."

"I was saddened by the fact that even Catholics, who, after all, might have had a better knowledge of the situation, thought they had to attack me with open hostility," he said. "Precisely for this reason I thank all the more our Jewish friends, who quickly helped to clear up the misunderstanding and to restore the atmosphere of friendship and trust."

The pope acknowledged something critics have pointed out: that a simple Internet search would have revealed Bishop Williamson's views on the Holocaust and helped the Vatican anticipate the reaction. "I have learned the lesson that in the future in the Holy See we will have to pay greater attention to that source of news," he said.

Pope Benedict said he deeply regretted another mistake: that the lifting of the excommunications was not

adequately explained and gave rise to misinterpretations about the traditionalist society's status in the church.

He emphasized that the removal of the excommunications was a disciplinary measure that affects individuals. But the fact that the Society of St. Pius X has no standing in the church depends on doctrinal reasons, he said.

"Until the doctrinal questions are clarified, the society has no canonical status in the church, and its ministers — even though they have been freed of the ecclesiastical penalty — do not legitimately exercise any ministry in the church," he said.

In view of the importance of the doctrinal issues still to be clarified with the society, the pope announced that he was putting the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," which has handled reconciliation efforts with traditionalist groups, under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"This will make it clear that the problems now to be addressed are essentially doctrinal in nature and concern primarily the acceptance of the Second Vatican Council and the post-conciliar magisterium of the popes," he said.

He underlined what Vatican officials have said in recent weeks, that for the Society of St. Pius X full communion implies acceptance of Vatican II. "The church's teaching authority cannot be frozen in the year 1962 — this must be quite clear to the society," the pope said.

At the same time, he said, some defenders of Vatican II need to be reminded that being faithful to the council also means being faithful to the church's entire doctrinal history, without cutting "the roots from which the tree draws its life."

After making his clarifications, the pope confronted the question: "Was this measure needed? Was it really a priority?" He answered with a heartfelt defense of his reconciliation move, saying the church cannot stop working for unity among its ranks.

"That the quiet gesture of extending a hand gave rise to a huge uproar, and thus became exactly the opposite of a gesture of reconciliation, is a fact which we must accept," he said.

"But I ask now: Was it, and is it, truly wrong in this case to meet halfway the brother who 'has something against you' and to seek reconciliation?" he asked.

The pope said he recognized that disturbing statements have often come from the society's leadership, reflecting "arrogance and presumptuousness." But he said he has also witnessed "an openness of hearts" among some members. He said the traditionalist society deserves the same kind of tolerance given to other members in the church.

"At times one gets the impression that our society needs to have at least one group to which no tolerance may be shown, which one can easily attack and hate. And should someone dare to approach them — in this case the pope — he, too, loses any right to tolerance; he too can be treated hatefully, without misgiving or restraint," he said.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, denied reports that the pope was isolated or cut off from much of the Roman Curia, and added that the pope had received many letters of support during the recent controversy.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Detoxing from the virtual world during Lent

Technology helps, hinders our daily lives

It happened to one young lady I know, just like it happens every day in towns and cities across the world.

She felt the stares in the hallways. She heard the whispers flicker down the lockers like a particularly vibrant species of butterfly. It's easy to become the subject of a rumor; she slipped up socially, and the next day found herself the chosen topic of discussion between classes and in the cafeteria.

Before cell phones, Facebook and the Internet, though, there would have been refuge at home or a favorite hangout.

When I was in high school, you could escape, exit the rumor mill through the school's front doors, get on the bus and go home. I often went to my room to read books, listen to music or do my homework. In my room, surrounded by the things I loved, I felt empowered.

There's no such refuge today, not in a world where text messaging is even more instantaneous than e-mail, and where Facebook is as real a hangout as the hamburger stand.

The rumors and bullying continued after the girl left school for the day. Mean comments were posted on her MySpace profile, turning a safe space into another place where she felt assailed. People would text her all evening, and it wasn't always nice.

A New York teenager recently filed a lawsuit against four classmates who founded a Web site dedicated to "holding [her] up to public hatred, ridicule and disgrace." Another girl reported receiving text messages from unknown numbers, telling her that "U R smelly," "Nobody likes you" and "I hate you."

This can have real life-and-death consequences. In Cincinnati recently, 18-year-old Jessie Logan killed herself after a nude photo was texted to hundreds of people. She was teased at school — and

Coming of Age

KAREN OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST



out of school — when kids who didn't even know her would text her mobile phone with messages calling her horrible names.

No wonder Archbishop Benito Cocchi of Modena, Italy, recommended giving up social networking and text messaging for Lent. He said that a textual fast would help teens "detox from the virtual world and get back in touch with themselves."

I think he might have a point.

Plastic cases, jangly devices and electronic circuits aren't the problem, but they do serve as enablers for people who are ready to hear a rumor and pass it on, who are gunning for gossip, who serve as bystanders when someone is being hurt, who want power over others through hurting them with words.

The existence of mobile phones and Facebook make it imperative for teens to stand up to bullying and teasing, whether it's in school, on a social-networking site or a mobile phone.

Technology does make it easier to tease, but it also makes it easier to stand up and say no.

Don't contribute to the problem, even if you think it's harmless fun. Standing up to tech-teasing and cyberbullying can be as easy as pressing a "stop" button.

Don't pass on photos or rumor texts. Don't start or join online groups created to ridicule other people. Don't create fake accounts or impersonate others online. Don't tolerate people who do. Don't forward private IM conversations without the permission of the other party. Don't send nasty text messages.

Most of all, get empowered and refuse to be part of the problem. Take Archbishop Cocchi's advice and "detox." You don't necessarily have to turn off the phone; just turn off the teasing and encourage others to do the same.

The responsibility to fight injustices

Taking innocent life, even in its most nascent stages, is always intrinsically evil

On March 9, President Barack Obama signed an executive order reversing the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. In doing so, President Obama pledged to "use sound, scientific practice and evidence, instead of dogma" as a guide to federal policy.

Many scientists believe that stem cells harvested from embryos could help advance medical technology to develop cures for certain diseases and illnesses. This is because stem cells harvested from human embryos have the capacity to be manipulated to form any of the body's cell types, and thereby repair or replace damaged tissue or organs.

On March 11, the Charlotte Observer ran an editorial hailing President Obama's decision as "long overdue." The editorial went on to opine that "it seemed to many Americans that the failure to pursue stem cell research aggressively and broadly was an immoral choice, given so much human suffering and so much scientific promise of real results from it."

But while there has been a restriction on federally-funded embryonic stem cell research, there has been a great deal of embryonic stem cell research that has been privately funded during the past eight years.

While embryonic stem cell research does hold promise of finding cures for diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease and even cancer, the research is morally reprehensible because it requires the destruction of human life.

Embryonic stem cells are taken from living human embryos, thereby destroying the embryo in the process. In fact, in December 2008 the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a bioethics document, "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person"), which clearly condemns this practice:

"The obtaining of stem cells from a living human embryo, on the other hand, invariably causes the death of the embryo and is consequently gravely illicit. ... History itself has condemned such a science in the past and will condemn it in the future, not only because it lacks the light of God but also because it lacks humanity" (no. 32).

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called President Obama's

Guest Column

FATHER
TIMOTHY REID
GUEST COLUMNIST

decision "a sad victory of politics over science and ethics."

The cardinal said embryonic stem cell research is wrong due to the fact that it destroys "innocent human life" by "treating vulnerable human beings as mere products to be harvested." He noted also that the executive order "disregards the values of millions of American taxpayers who oppose research that requires taking human life."

Furthermore, there are morally-permissible alternatives to embryonic stem cell research that have proven to be much more effective than embryonic stem cell research, thus making embryonic stem cell research unnecessary — a point often ignored by the mainstream media.

Specifically, there have been great advances in reprogramming adult stem cells so that they behave like embryonic stem cells.

Moreover, adult stem cells taken from umbilical cords are as versatile as embryonic stem cells and have already been used to reverse illnesses and rebuild damaged organs. To date, there have been 72 cures and treatments developed from adult stem cells, but zero cures and treatments that have come through embryonic stem cell research.

You can find more information on embryonic and adult stem cell research at www.stemcellresearchfacts.com.

Our Catholic moral tradition has always held that it is not licit to perform an evil action simply to derive some good from it. The taking of innocent human life, even if that human life is in its most nascent stages, is always and in every way intrinsically evil.

The decision by President Obama is a grave injustice that will further erode the proper respect for human life in our country. As Catholics we have the responsibility to fight such injustices through all legitimate means open to us (for example by voting for pro-life candidates, holding peaceful protests, writing letters to our elected officials, etc.).

In addition to committing ourselves to fighting such evils in the public forum let us also pray and offer sacrifices for all those who support or who are involved in embryonic stem cell research, that they will come to understand the true evil of this practice and repent.

Father Reid is pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

Letter to the Editor

Gratitude for pro-life guest column

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Father Matthew Buettner for his March 6 column, "A response to Nancy Pelosi: Pro-choice Catholic legislators give scandal to faithful, set dangerous precedence."

Father Buettner made it abundantly clear that the attempts to modify church teaching on abortion to suit one's politics are not at all acceptable.

There is no such thing as a "pro-choice Catholic." For those who would justify voting for a pro-abortion political candidate, I would suggest they have an in-depth discussion with their pastor, preferably in a confessional, and definitely before receiving holy Communion.

— Joseph Stock
Otto, N.C.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Who — or what — is our master?

Our Lenten challenge is to indentify where we've put our trust

There were seven of us gals gathered around a coffee table with a bottle of red wine, a bottle of white and a lot of good chatter. We all taught preschool together at one time, and we're dedicated to maintaining our friendship. So every month or two, we make a date and catch up on families, jobs, vacations, life.

It occurred to me late in the conversation that no one had said, "Hey, let's talk about the economy." But just as the late afternoon sun breaking through the window infused the room with light, so too did the economy, unbidden, seep into every nook and cranny of our conversation.

One woman told us that her daughter, son-in-law and the kids had moved back home with her. They could no longer afford the mortgage on the condo and were trying to sell it.

Others, married to oil-company workers, that mainstay of our Alaskan economy, talked about possible layoffs and definite wage freezes.

Another spoke of her son and daughter-in-law buying a vacation home close to theirs in Arizona. The home was a foreclosure and they were getting a terrific buy.

For my part, when asked about my graduating daughter's college plans, I

mentally cringed at the current state of our college savings portfolio. No, this economic downturn is unavoidable.

Did I say "downturn"? Every week, it seems, the media and their experts come up with a new term. Downturn seems too polite and cautious now.

We've moved from "recession" to "severe recession," and then some use the "D" word, only they tell us it won't be as bad as the Great Depression. At least that's what they assure us now.

Some remark that this event, whose end we really cannot foresee, will change the way Americans live and spend forever. That reminds me of the commentator who said after 9/11 that Americans might never regain their sense of humor.

Please — historical events may change us, but it takes a lot to revolutionize us. But it is Lent, a time for reflection and personal revolution. Reflection should include how we feel about money, affluence, trust, security.

Some people think money and prayer belong in two separate niches of their psyche. I, on the other hand, feel challenged by Thomas Merton, who said, "A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all." How hard it is to ask how

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



I measure up against that phrase!

In a time when my college and retirement funds sink, do I thank the Lord for asking me, "Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Mt 6:25) Your heavenly Father knows you need these things, Christ says, and as for me, well, I'm supposed to seek first the kingdom of heaven and not worry about all that "stuff."

What better time than Lent in the midst of recession to ask: Where have I really put my trust?

My mother lived and suffered through the Great Depression. It did change her. She saw her father lose his farm, and she had to work as a teenager to help her family survive.

She clung to security after that, and unlike our generation, she was a woman who saved money strenuously.

But she didn't really enjoy her money because she tried never to spend it. And she didn't give a lot of it away. I don't judge her; I have those same tendencies.

And that's why I feel Lent is calling right now and demanding that I answer in an honest way, What do I seek first? Who — or what — is my master?

Ethical and legal wills

Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH
DIOCESAN PLANNED
GIVING DIRECTOR



Deeply rooted in western religions, the practice of writing ethical wills has reemerged as a way of leaving behind something more meaningful than material goods.

As the name suggests, ethical wills are intended to be spiritual counterparts to the legal documents that dispose of our worldly goods after our deaths. The undeniable assumption inherent in ethical wills is that we are more than the sum of our material parts, and we should pass along the intangibles the way we do cash or stock.

An ethical will is a way to leave what is most important to us beyond our possessions. There are many reasons for writing one, including the following:

— We all want to be remembered, and we all will leave something behind.

— When we tell our stories and the stories of our parents and grandparents, we ensure that their stories will not be lost.

— When we take the time to explore the things in our Catholic faith and in our lives that matter to us, it helps to identify what we value most.

— When we articulate what we value now, we can take steps to ensure the continuation of our values for future generations.

— Writing an ethical will helps us come to terms with our mortality and creates something of meaning that will live on after we are gone.

— Writing an ethical will grounds us in our Catholic faith and provides a sense of completion in our lives.

An ethical will reflects the "voice of the heart." Think of it as a love letter to your family. Every ethical will is as personal as the person writing it and will be an important document for your families and loved ones.

Your will, whether legal or ethical, reflects what is most important in your life. Doesn't it also make sense to remember your Catholic faith in your final statement to the world as a Christian steward?

When you leave a bequest to your parish through your legal will, you support its works of education and Christian service, or help maintain a beautiful church for worship.

Your bequest to the diocesan foundation is a "gift that keeps on giving." These gifts support the church in its good works, including Catholic education, Christian service and seminarian formation.

By remembering in your will your parish, a Catholic school, a Catholic agency, the diocesan foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte, you thank God for the blessings received in this life, and for the faith that sustains you.

During Lent: What would Jesus do?

Christ calls us to aim higher, follow moral high road

Of all the many crucial questions we need to ask ourselves this Lent, the first and most important question should be: What would Jesus do?

Sometimes the answer is obvious. Other times it takes considerable soul-searching and honest dialogue to figure out the Lord's moral high road.

The Ten Commandments give us a foundational guide to morality. They instruct us in the basics.

But Jesus calls us beyond the basics. He says, "Come follow me."

The Gospel story of the rich young man is an excellent illustration. A well-off man approaches Jesus with the question: "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replies, "Keep the commandments." After explaining that he has kept all of the commandments, the rich man asks, "What do I still lack?"

To that Jesus answers, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to (the) poor. ... Then come, follow me."

What does it mean to follow Jesus? In the story of the rich young man, it means more than simply being a decent human being. The Lord directs his followers to be most generous with the poor. But even that's not enough.

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus extends the meaning of the

commandments. For instance, he goes beyond the ban on stealing, and warns us to rid ourselves of all greed.

Certainly his warning would now include corporate greed.

According to a representative of the International Food Policy Research Institute, U.S. financial giants Morgan Stanley and American International Group (better known as AIG) used regulatory loopholes to buy over 2 billion bushels of grain, which was then kept off the market to send food prices soaring.

Their lust for profit caused countless people to go hungry.

Jesus would insist that corporate officials turn away from their greed and make up for all the harm they did to hungry people.

However, since a quick repentance is unlikely, and since regulatory loopholes were never closed, the government has a responsibility to ensure that these innocent victims are rescued.

Many American corporations purchase much of their merchandise from sweatshops in poor countries where employees are treated almost as slaves.

Certainly Jesus would not put "everyday low prices" above human suffering. He would, and is, calling us to challenge these greedy companies.

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



Instead of taking advantage of desperately poor workers, shouldn't we be urging such companies to ensure just wages, decent working conditions and reasonable hours for these brothers and sisters?

The Lord calls us beyond a mere observance of the law. "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jesus is inviting us to aim higher, to love as he loves!

The Fifth Commandment insists that we not murder. But in traditional Jewish understanding of the law, killing in war or capital punishment is not forbidden by this commandment.

But to bring this commandment to fulfillment, Jesus teaches, "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. ... Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."

Jesus makes no exception to killing. He is calling us to follow him and totally abolish both war and capital punishment. He is directing those who will listen to respect the life and dignity of every single person — even enemies and murderers.

That's what Jesus would do!



“And The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us.” — John 1:14

*Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to
the Diocesan Youth Lenten Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey*

Sunday, March 29 12:30pm – 6:30pm

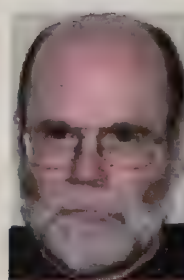
Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at Exit 26)

Your day also will include:

- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Praise and Worship music
- Witness talks by Abbey students
- Vespers and Benediction
- Pilgrimage T-shirts for first 500



Bishop Peter Jugis



Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Jugis, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

SCHEDULE

12:30 PM - Arrival, Campus tours and
Welcome activity

1:00 PM - Greetings: Abbot Placid and
Dr. William Thierfelder

1:45 PM - Student and Parent Programs

Students: Praise and worship with
Abbey Students and Confessions

Parents: Talks by Dr. Thierfelder;
Dr. Lucas Lamadrid

3:30 PM - Quiet Transition to Basilica

4:00 PM - Witness Talk - Adoration and Vespers

4:15 PM - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament,
Bishop's Address

4:45 PM - Eucharistic Procession

5:30 PM - Vespers with Bishop Jugis and the
Monks of Belmont Abbey

6:00 PM - Benediction of the
Most Blessed Sacrament

6:15 PM - Closing Remarks and Blessing

Information at www.GoEucharist.com

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of Charlotte



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MARCH 27, 2009

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 21

| PAGES 14-15

CONSCIENCE MATTERS

N.C. bishops call for help in defending health care workers' rights

USCCB comments
cite reasons for HHS
to keep conscience
regulation

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Raleigh Bishop Michael F. Burbidge are encouraging local Catholics to help keep a regulation that gives federal protection to the conscience rights of health care providers and institutions.

"The right to life and the freedom to exercise one's religious and moral beliefs in the medical field without

See HHS, page 6

Bringing Christ's message to a 'land of hope'



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI kisses a child as he leaves Amadou Ahidjo stadium following Mass in Yaounde, Cameroon, March 19. In his homily the pope urged African families to reject the "tyranny of materialism" and other social changes that risk eroding the continent's traditional values. The service was attended by more than 40,000 people.

Perspectives

The cross and joy;
Easter hope; the disease
of 'a thousand things to do'

In Africa, pope challenges attitudes, cultural trends

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LUANDA, Angola — Pope Benedict XVI's in-flight statement opposing condom distribution in AIDS prevention drew sharp criticism and was seen by many as a distraction from his main message in Africa.

But a closer look reveals that very little of what the pope had to say during his March 17-23 African journey was easy or accommodating.

On issues ranging from abortion to corruption,

See AFRICA, page 7

Festivities of green



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade and festival was held in uptown Charlotte March 21. For photographs of participating Catholic schools and organizations, see pages 8-9.



COURTESY PHOTO

Student volunteers, Becky Whaples and Kelly Laccinole, paint a wall at the Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center in Robbinsville March 12. As participants in Catholic Campus Ministry's alternative spring break, the students spent a week doing service projects in western North Carolina counties.

Considering the alternative

Students spend spring break doing service
projects in western North Carolina

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

MURPHY— A small group of college students and campus ministers from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently made a big impact on four rural mountain counties of western North Carolina.

As part of an alternative

spring break, the students spent March 7-14 performing service projects with a Catholic agency and local nonprofit organizations.

The project was a collaborative effort between diocesan campus ministry and the Office of Economic

See SERVICE, page 5

Culture Watch

Menus and saints' lives;
filmmaker works to help poor

| PAGES 10-11

In Our Schools

Students experience styles of
music, art in school

| PAGE 13

'Beacon of hope'

Catholic church reopens in
New Orleans' 9th Ward

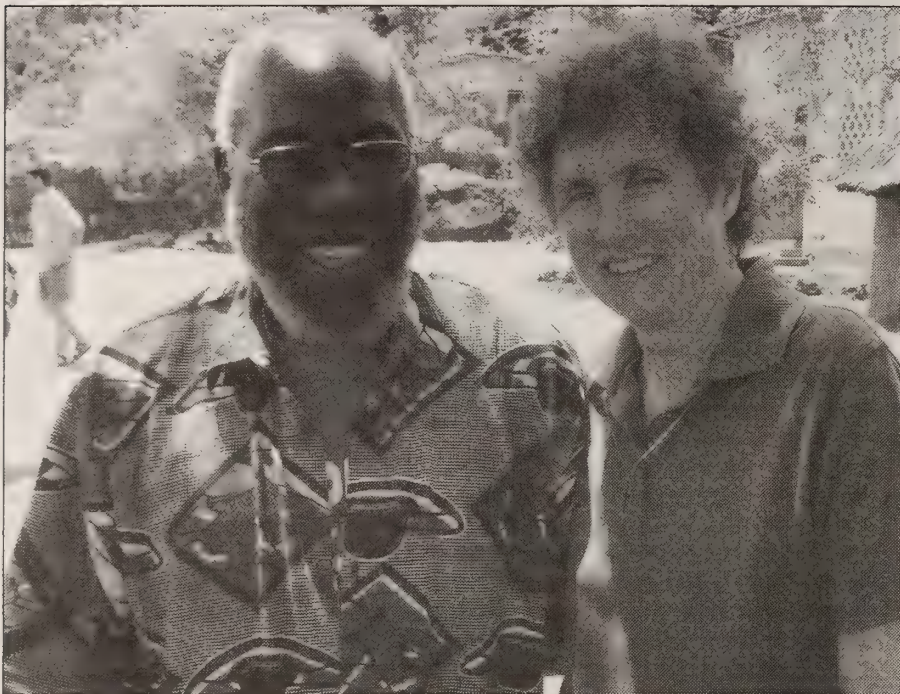
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

MERCY BEYOND BORDERS



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF SISTER LACEY

Mercy Sister Marilyn Lacey is pictured in this undated photo with retired Bishop Paride Taban of Torit, Sudan, who invited her to southern Sudan. Sister Marilyn is founder of Mercy Beyond Borders.

Bishop's stories of tragedy sparked Mercy sister's outreach to Sudan

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Eighteen years ago, Mercy Sister Marilyn Lacey was at a conference in Los Angeles and heard a Catholic bishop tell about life in Sudan, which at the time was in the middle of a civil war.

Bishop Paride Taban of Torit told of 1 million displaced people and how he housed refugee children in his home. He said there were no schools, hospitals or clinics, and he described bomb craters on his front lawn.

Unfamiliar with the situation in Sudan, Sister Lacey, who had been working to resettle refugees with Catholic Charities in San Jose, Calif., was stunned and felt compelled to stay behind and talk with the bishop.

"I told him that I wanted to know more about what was going on in Sudan," she recalled in a March 11 interview.

A member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas West Midwest Community, Sister Lacey said the bishop's response piqued her interest even more. "Come and see," he said.

She likened the invitation to what Jesus said in the Gospel.

In 1992, Sister Lacey went to Sudan and what she saw there changed her forever. She described a scene similar to the passage about dry bones found in Chapter 37 of Ezekiel in the Old Testament.

"There were about 10,000 people who were starving. I couldn't understand how they were able to stand," she said.

She learned that the people had walked for two weeks fleeing a massacre and looking for water.

"I was stunned at the devastation. I had not seen such extreme poverty," said

Sister Lacey. "From that point on, I was changed and knew that I would do for Sudan whatever I could."

Last year, Sister Marilyn founded Mercy Beyond Borders, www.mercybeyondborders.org, a nonprofit agency that helps educate young girls and supports small entrepreneurial projects that can be run by displaced women in southern Sudan.

The agency is working on projects such as providing grants for refugee women so they can cultivate vegetables, getting bicycles so the women don't have to walk four hours to sell their vegetables at the market, and opening roadside cafes at which they can sell tea and bread to travelers in Sudan.

Since then, she has been meeting Mercy sisters and associates, and traveling to Mercy colleges, universities and high schools to educate people on what is happening in Sudan and outlining how they can help.

"I want to challenge folks to study the issues behind the many injustices and imbalances in the world. It's not enough to give food and water to the poor; we have to find out why they are poor," she said.

In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended more than two decades of Sudan's civil war, which left 2 million dead and displaced 4 million. But since then fighting has again intensified and threatens the agreement.

To Sister Lacey, Mercy Beyond Borders is a natural fit for the Mercy tradition.

"Being with the poor is our best chance to meet God face to face," Sister Lacey said.

Despite criticism, Notre Dame firm on Obama as commencement speaker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — University of Notre Dame officials were standing firm on their choice of President Barack Obama as commencement speaker at the institution's May 17 graduation, in spite of a large number of Catholics calling on them to rescind the invitation.

The Indiana university, run by the Congregation of Holy Cross, and the White House announced March 20 that Obama would be Notre Dame's 2009 commencement speaker and confirmed he will receive an honorary doctor of law degree at the graduation.

"The invitation to President Obama to be our commencement speaker should not be taken as condoning or endorsing his positions on specific issues regarding the protection of human life, including abortion and embryonic stem cell research," said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame.

"Yet, we see his visit as a basis for further positive engagement," he said in

a March 23 statement.

The announcement was promptly followed by a flurry of criticism from Catholics, who said the president's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem cell research makes him an inappropriate choice to be the commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

The Cardinal Newman Society — a Manassas, Va.-based Catholic college watchdog group — announced March 26 it had collected more than 157,901 signatures so far in an online petition that calls for Notre Dame to rescind its invitation to Obama to be this year's commencement speaker.

Notre Dame spokesman Dennis Brown said March 23 the university anticipated criticism, and that most students are pleased with this year's choice of Obama as the commencement speaker and feel honored the first black U.S. president would accept Notre Dame's invitation from among the many he has received.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Solemn Vespers of Lent* will be held at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening during Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. Vespers is the name given to the official liturgical evening prayer of the Church and completes the Divine Service for that day. The Evening vespers will include a reflection on the seven last words of Christ. On March 29, Father Brad Jones gives the reflection on the fifth word, "I thirst." On April 5, Bishop Peter J. Jugis gives the reflection on the sixth and seventh words, "It is finished" and "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiette's are now accepting applications for the *Gene Marie Alfaro Scholarship*. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is pursuing a career in nursing or other health related fields. If interested, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624. To be considered, applications must be received by April 14.

MINT HILL — Deacon Rafael Torres will lead *The Stations of the Cross in Spanish* at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Thursdays during

Lent at 6:15 p.m. For more information, call (704) 846-7753.

CHARLOTTE — "*Poor Prenatal Diagnosis: When Abortion Becomes Part of Routine Obstetric Care*," training for counselors to support parents in carrying to term will take place March 30 from 7-9 p.m. in Room 204 of the New Life Center Building at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, contact Andrea Hines at HinesAL@aol.com or Tracy Winsor at ohboys@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an *introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality* led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be April 4 on the topic, "Drama of Saving Love: Church." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass in Polish* will be held at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Palm Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. Confessions will be available from 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20's and 30's to *Theology on Tap, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert."* This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizza/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. On April 16, Chris Lynch will present the topic "The Resurrection and Easter Sunday." Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to participate in the *celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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MARCH 27, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 21

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Papal social encyclical should be published in May, says cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's first social encyclical is already completed and should be ready for release in early May, said a top Vatican official.

The original aim had been to have the encyclical on social justice issues ready for publication in 2007 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on human development, "Populorum Progressio" ("The Progress of Peoples"), said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

"Naturally, however, with the research and revisions necessary to create and have a text that would respond to today's current situation, well, it got behind schedule a little bit," he told reporters March 20.

He said the new papal encyclical will offer "a beautiful response" to the new realities and the changes that

have occurred since the last papal encyclical on Catholic social teaching, "Centesimus Annus" ("The Hundredth Year"), was published in 1991 by Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict's social encyclical was tentatively titled "Caritas in Veritate" ("Love in Truth") and will be his third encyclical in four years.

The pope said one reason for the encyclical's delay was the need to deal thoroughly with the current global economic crisis.

"We were almost ready to publish it when this crisis erupted and we went back to the text in order to give a more adequate response" and to examine what the church sees as being the real problems underlying the financial crisis, he said March 17.

He said he hoped the encyclical could play a part in helping the world overcome its economic woes.

Marriage, religious vows don't limit freedom, papal preacher says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The unbreakable bonds of marriage and the permanence of religious vows do not place artificial constraints on the freedom to love; rather they free a person to love forever, in good times and bad, said the preacher of the papal household.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa continued his Friday Lenten meditations for top Vatican officials March 20 even though Pope Benedict XVI and his closest collaborators were in Africa.

Focusing on the writings of St. Paul about the Holy Spirit, the papal preacher looked specifically at the meaning of the passage from the Letter to the Romans: "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death."

If Christ's death and resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit have freed people from the law, he said, "what sense do the Code of Canon Law, monastic rules, religious vows" and the church's insistence on the indissolubility of marriage have?

"Jesus said he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it," the Capuchin said.

What the Holy Spirit adds to the law

is life-giving love, he said.

"People today increasingly ask: What relationship there could be between the love of two young people and laws regarding matrimony, and what need does love have to bind itself when it is naturally free and spontaneous," he said.

If two people are really in love, Father Cantalamessa said, they do not see a promise to love each other forever as a burden, but as a joy.

"This consideration is valid not only for human love, but also for divine love," he said. "One could ask, 'Why should one make a commitment to loving God, submitting to a religious rule, taking vows that force him or her to be poor, chaste and obedient?'"

The reason is that, "in a moment of grace, you felt attracted by God, you loved him and wanted to be with him forever, totally, and fearing that you might lose him because of your own instability, you bound yourself to him to guarantee your love," he said.

Religious vows and marriage vows help keep people steady through difficult times, guaranteeing that when the crisis is over, the relationship will still be firm, Father Cantalamessa said.

Plkwy., at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19. The celebration will include a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered prior to the celebration. Individuals should check the times offered in their respective parishes.

CHARLOTTE — The 40 Hours for Life prayer vigil is being held outside A Preferred Women's Health Center, 3220 Latrobe Dr., Feb. 21 through April 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Parking is available along Latrobe Dr., on either side of the street. For more information or to sign up visit, www.40daysforlife.com/charlotte, or call Katherine at (704) 877-2551.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — The Youth Group at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, will present the *Living Stations* at noon on Good Friday, April 10 at 12 p.m. They will take you through Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and then through the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join in this meditation on the Lord's Passion.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* will meet at 7 p.m. April 2 in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — An *ecumenical Lenten worship service* will be held at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., each Wednesday during Lent from 12-12:30 p.m. The reflection will be given by a local preacher and an offering will be taken for a local charity. It is free and open to the public. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be served following the service. For more information, contact Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

SYLVA — A *Lenten Mission* will be held at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St., April 2-3. Join Father Paul Check, from the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn. for inspiring presentations. On

Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. Father Check will speak on "The Mercy of Christ" followed by a Penance Service. Friday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m. we will begin with the Stations of the Cross, a simple soup & bread dinner, followed by a talk from Father Check on "The Passion of Christ." Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on both evenings. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496 or e-mail StMarys@dnet.net.

SYLVA — "The Passion of Our Lord," a living re-enactment by the Hispanic community will take place on Good Friday, April 10 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. All are invited to attend this annual spiritual event. Praying the Stations of the Cross will be held in the church immediately following. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496 or e-mail StMarys@dnet.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — The 40 Hours for Life prayer vigil is being held outside Forsyth Women's Center/Planned Parenthood, 3000 Maplewood Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Feb. 25 through April 5. The vigil is held on the public sidewalk directly across the street from the center. Parking is available on Bodford St. only, one block from the prayer site. For more information or to sign up visit www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem, or call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

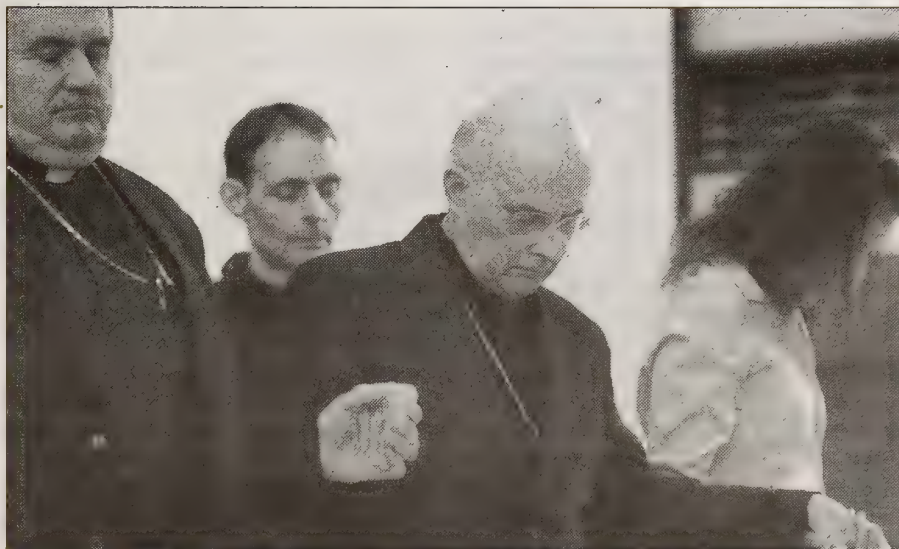
April 2 (10 a.m.)
Charlotte Catholic Women's Group spring luncheon
Carmel Country Club, Charlotte

April 2 (7 p.m.)
Pastor installation of Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

April 4 (7:15 a.m.)
Mass for candidates of Deacon Formation Program
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

April 5 (11 a.m.)
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Joined in prayer



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Chicago Auxiliary Bishop John R. Manz, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George and Elena Segura, director of the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform for the Archdiocese of Chicago, pray during an interfaith prayer forum at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Chicago March 21. Cardinal George urged President Barack Obama and his administration to stop immigration raids and deportations that are separating families and to work toward more comprehensive immigration reform.

As floodwaters rise, bishop asks Catholics to pray, help one another

FARGO, N.D. (CNS) — Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo has asked all Catholics in his diocese to pray for the protection of North Dakota residents and communities that may be affected by rising floodwaters, which threatened to destroy about 6,000 homes.

"Please remember to pray for their protection, for the protection of their families, our communities and also asking the Lord to give us strength during this time of trial," said Bishop Aquila at Mass March 22 at the Cathedral of

St. Mary in Fargo. The bishop also sent a similar statement by e-mail to all Catholic parishes, religious communities and officials with diocesan offices and Catholic Charities North Dakota.

Several days of unrelenting rain caused the waters of the Red River to rise as much as 5 feet in one day. The city closed a number of bridges over the river. The rising floodwaters were threatening dozens of communities in the river basin in the southern part of North Dakota and in the neighboring state of Minnesota.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis watches as catechumens, candidates and their sponsors stand during the Rite of Election at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro March 8.

The call to Catholicism

Rites of election celebrated around diocese

CHARLOTTE — Rites of Election are being held in churches around the Diocese of Charlotte.

The rite, celebrated annually in churches around the world, formally acknowledges the readiness of those preparing to enter the church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): candidates — who were baptized Catholic or in another Christian faith but have yet to receive the other sacraments of initiation of Communion and confirmation — and catechumens — who have never

been baptized.

All will receive the sacraments during the Easter Vigil at their parishes.

The rite of election marks the beginning of the candidates' and catechumens' final, and most intense, period of preparation. The ceremony also denotes their official reception as "members of the elect."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the RCIA is a program of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, which is funded in part by contributions to the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (right) and Deacon Carlos Medina of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte watch as catechumens, their sponsors and others holding their parish's Book of Elect stand during the Rite of Election at St. James the Greater Church in Concord March 1.

Exploring learning styles



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Dr. Paula Grubbs, coordinator of elementary Education at Salem College in Winston-Salem, speaks to parish catechetical program leaders during a workshop on "Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences" at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 19. The workshop was to help catechists develop lesson plans for children's faith formation classes.

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Students spend spring break doing service projects

SERVICE, from page 1

Opportunity (OEO) — a program of Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace — and St. William Church, both in Murphy.

"Part of our reason for partnering with OEO was so the students would have an opportunity to learn more about the state of North Carolina," said Gloria Schweizer, Asheville-area campus minister.

"This was the first time that I think anything like this has been done out in this part of the diocese," said Claudie Burchfield, OEO director.

St. William Church hosted the students and campus ministers.

"The students really had a great experience with the parish," said

Schweizer of the interaction between the parishioners and the students.

By the end of the week, they "had a new level of appreciation for each other," she said.

"The retired people from the parish have been a big part of keeping the community together," said Kelly Laccinole, a freshman at Central Piedmont Community College and UNC-Charlotte.

Throughout the week, parishioners provided the students with a pancake breakfast and cookout and the students joined them for a game night and Lenten service at the church.

"The trip involved lots of physical labor as a team, as well as focusing on understanding the deeper social issues involved in the four far-western counties of North Carolina," said Schweizer.

"The men's group at the parish worked with us," said Julie McElmurry, campus minister at Wake Forest University and Salem College in Winston-Salem.

"I told them, 'We have strong backs and good attitudes, but no skills and no tools,'" she joked.

At the OEO, the students and parish volunteers worked on the exterior of the building — pressure washing, scraping and repainting.

They cleaned out a home used by St. William Church for faith formation activities and they volunteered at two local thrift stores that specialize in providing goods to low-income families at affordable prices.

"One of the students commented that it was cool that we didn't go to some exotic location," said Erin Leonard, campus minister at Appalachian State University in Boone.

"It made a big difference to know



COURTESY PHOTO

Students Kelly Laccinole and Will Geiger are pictured doing service work at the Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy March 9. The students spent a week volunteering as part of a campus ministry alternative spring break.

that we were helping people within our own diocese," she said.

Staying within the state also allowed them to save money on gas and accommodations.

"We could do the trip economically and make more of an impact," said Leonard.

Throughout the week, the students went to daily Mass at St. William Church and met in the evenings for prayer and devotion.

"The thing that I appreciate about a trip like this is the Catholic spiritual dimension," said Schweizer.

Another goal of the project was to provide an opportunity for Catholic students from the different universities to interact.

In total, there were eight participants representing five universities.

"I would say making the connection

with the parish and with OEO" was one of the most rewarding aspects of the trip, said McElmurry.

"It made me realize that what we were doing was making an impact," she said. "And there is more to it than just accomplishing these tasks for them."

"I think they just really enjoyed having us there," she added.

Burchfield agreed that the connection with the parish was an important component.

"I think that was so important for them to be able to connect with that group and have an opportunity to share experiences," said Burchfield.

"It was beneficial to both the youths and the parishioners," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 15th

Tues., May 5 - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 22nd

Wed., May 20 - St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden
9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Closing Mass with Fr. Adrian Porras
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Rev. Joseph J. Lash	1999
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Bishops cite reasons for HHS to keep regulation

HHS, from page 1

discrimination are being challenged in a new way, and we are asking for your help in contacting federal government regulators about this issue," said the bishops in a March 23 statement.

The Department of Health and Human Services opened a 30-day comment period March 10 on whether it should rescind a regulation that took effect two days before President Barack Obama took office.

The rule codifies three longtime federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections.

Rather than working to rescind the regulation, the Obama administration's proper role is to enforce the will of Congress as already expressed in existing statutes, said attorneys for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Anthony Picarello Jr., USCCB general counsel, and Michael Moses, associate general counsel, filed public comments on behalf of the USCCB March 23 with HHS.

"The question is not whether the policy to be pursued is the strong protection of conscience in health care — Congress has already decided that question repeatedly and decisively by a series of statutes — but how best to enforce the policy of conscience protection already expressed in those statutes," Picarello and Moses said.

The USCCB comments also said rescission of the regulation would conflict with the administration's stated goals of promoting "choice" and reducing abortions; reduce health care options for the poor and other underserved populations; and perpetuate the "undisguised hostility to conscience rights" and widespread ignorance of existing law that are already rampant.

"If the administration's policy is one of 'choice,' it cannot, consistent with that policy, refuse to accommodate a health care provider's choice not to participate in abortion," the USCCB said. "Otherwise, the policy is simply one of unmasked coercion."

Similarly, it makes no sense to contend that one is working to reduce abortions by increasing access to abortion, the comments said.

"Increasing abortion access increases abortion rates," the USCCB lawyers said. "The administration cannot coherently — or in good faith — claim to stand for both policies at the same time."

In their joint statement, the North Carolina bishops ask Catholics in their two dioceses to visit the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection during HHS's 30-day comment period, which ends April 10, to learn more

about the proposal and to voice their opposition to it.

"Please ... let our government know that you do not want to rescind the regulation that was enacted last December and that you want to protect the right of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who make the life-affirming decision not to participate in abortions or other objectionable medical procedures based on their moral or religious beliefs," the bishops said.

Uncertain outcomes

In soliciting public comment on the proposed rescission, HHS asked whether the regulation "reduces access to information and health care services, particularly by low-income women," as some groups such as Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America have charged.

The USCCB attorneys said rescinding the conscience regulation "would have uncertain effects on access" to abortion and sterilization, but "would certainly reduce access to life-affirming health care services, especially for poor and underserved populations."

Faced with a lack of conscience protections, health care providers and institutions opposed to abortion or sterilization could be forced out of business, thus reducing access to all health care, they added.

"Indeed, the poorest and neediest patients will suffer the most from such reduction in access to life-affirming health care.

"Those who allege a conflict between conscience and 'access' neglect to ask why rural and other underserved areas are so frequently served only by a Catholic or other faith-based provider," the USCCB comments said.

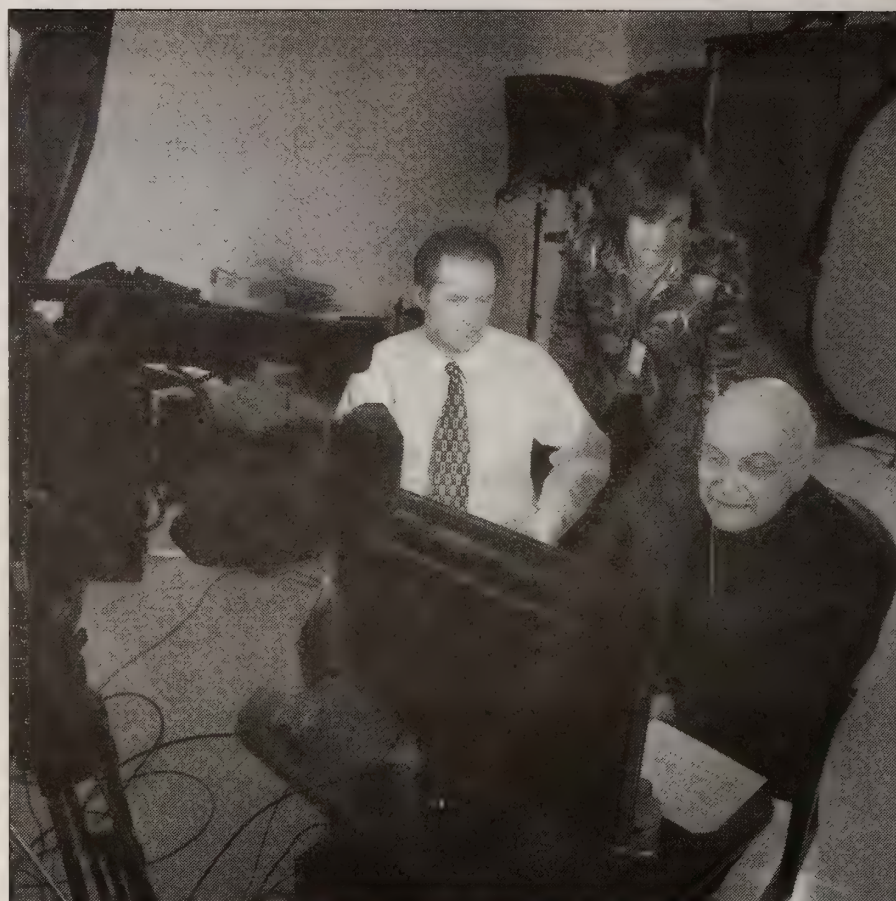
"This occurs because for-profit providers see no profit margin in serving poor or sparsely populated areas, while religiously affiliated providers ... see those patients as having inherent human dignity and human rights," they said.

"If these providers were barred from acting in accord with the moral and religious convictions that motivated them to provide life-affirming health care in the first place, the result will not be more comprehensive health care for these areas but, in some cases, none at all," they added.

Defending rights

As evidence of the need for the current regulation, the USCCB attorneys said negative public reaction even before the rule took effect "demonstrates, at best, a deplorable lack of understanding about the federal legislative rights of conscience on which the regulation is based, at worst outright hostility to those statutory rights."

They also cited actions by groups such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Civil Liberties Union, NARAL Pro-Choice America and various state and local governments to ignore or override conscience rights in



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago is assisted by employees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Digital Media office as he prepares to record a message in Spanish at the USCCB headquarters in Washington March 23. In the message, Cardinal George urged Catholics in the United States to tell the Obama administration to retain Department of Health and Human Services regulations governing conscience protections for health care workers. The message can be viewed on the USCCB Web site and on YouTube.

violation of the current federal statutes.

The USCCB called for outreach and educational efforts by HHS about the regulation "in addition to, rather than in lieu of, vigorous regulatory implementation of the existing conscience statutes."

"Public misperception about the conscience regulation and the statutes they enforce is, in and of itself, a testament to the need for regulatory enforcement and other guidance from HHS," the comments said.

"Congress has made its policy choice — a choice that respects and advances this nation's founding principles of religious liberty and diversity, and that tends to increase patients' ready access

to basic health care, regardless of their location or socio-economic status," the comments concluded.

"The administration's regulatory actions should faithfully enforce that existing policy choice," they said.

Contributing to this story was Nancy Frazier O'Brien of Catholic News Service.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more info on the HHS proposal, visit www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection or www.catholicvoicenc.org.

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CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

"Do not let yourself be captivated by selfish illusions and false ideals."

In Africa, pope challenges attitudes, cultural trends

AFRICA, from page 1

from women's rights to economic development, the pope preached the Gospel in a way that took issue with common practices and prevailing attitudes.

His conviction, expressed on his first day in Cameroon, is that Christianity is the answer — the only real answer — to the chronic problems plaguing Africa. His fear is that Africa, caught up in economic and cultural globalization, will follow the secularized West and lose touch with its own best values.

Condom campaigns are, to Pope Benedict, a small but very real part of this threat. But his concern extends to virtually every area of social, economic and political life.

"At a time when so many people have no qualms about trying to impose the tyranny of materialism, with scant concern for the most deprived, you must be very careful," he told Africans in Cameroon.

"Take care of your souls," he said. "Do not let yourselves be captivated by selfish illusions and false ideals."

News accounts usually leave out the words that inevitably followed these papal warnings, but for the pope they were the most important part of his message in Africa: "Only Christ is the way of life." "The Lord Jesus is the one mediator and redeemer." "Christ is the measure of true humanism."

Calling for conversion

The transformation the pontiff asked of Africans was, as he described it, one that must begin with a radical conversion to Christ that redirects every aspect of life.

"The Gospel teaches us that

reconciliation, true reconciliation, can only be the fruit of conversion, a change of heart, a new way of thinking. It teaches us that only the power of God's love can change our hearts," he said at an outdoor Mass in Angola.

The pope kept reminding listeners that, in his view, inside and outside Africa the Christian message lived to the full is profoundly countercultural.

That was eminently clear when he addressed young people in an Angolan soccer stadium, telling them that their power to shape the future was directly dependent on their "constant dialogue with the Lord."

"The dominant societal culture is not helping you live by Jesus' words or to practice the self-giving to which he calls you," he said. In fact, he said, today's "individualistic and hedonistic" values prevent young people from reaching maturity.

At his Mass the next day, the pope continued in the same vein, saying that "living by the truth" was not easy in the face of the "hardened attitudes" of selfishness that dominate much of contemporary social relations.

Other challenges

Abortion was very much on the pope's mind in Africa.

His first speech on the continent reminded Africans of their traditional values and said the church was the institution best able to preserve and purify them — unlike agencies that want to impose "cultural models that ignore the rights of the unborn."

In a speech to foreign diplomats, he laid down a direct challenge to international organizations that, in his words, were undermining society's foundations by promoting abortion as a form of reproductive health care.

The working document for next October's Synod of Bishops, delivered by the pope to African bishops, said globalization "infringes on Africa's



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

A group of Pygmies from Cameroon's Baka tribe dance for Pope Benedict XVI outside the nunciature in Yaounde, Cameroon, March 20. The Pygmies conferred a rare turtle, a traditional sign of respect in their culture, to the pope shortly before his departure for Angola. The pope and Vatican aides, who initially spoke about finding a home for the turtle in the Vatican Gardens, decided that the turtle should stay in Africa and asked staff members of the Vatican Embassy in Luanda to find a proper home for it.

rights" and tends "to be the vehicle for the domination of a single, cultural model and a culture of death."

The pope hit hard on African wars and ethnic conflicts and repeatedly held out Christianity as the answer.

If Africans grasp that the church is "God's family," he said in Cameroon, there is no room for ethnocentrism or factionalism.

In effect, he presented the church as the only institution capable of bringing Africans together in a way that goes beyond political or economic expediency.

Although the pope had two one-liners about corruption, typically portrayed in the West as the quintessential "African" problem, he did not engage in finger-pointing — even in Cameroon, which is usually at the top of the corruption charts of human rights organizations.

Indeed, he called Cameroon a "land of hope" for Africa.

The reason is that he knows local African church leaders are already on the front lines in denouncing political corruption.

In Cameroon, for example, a year ago Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi of Douala took the unprecedented step of publicly opposing President Paul Biya's constitutional meddling that allowed the president to serve yet another seven-year term — a position the cardinal reiterated

during the pope's visit.

Significantly, the pope treated corruption not as a problem to be eliminated in return for foreign aid, but as a practice incompatible with the demands of the Gospel.

He added, however, that Africa deserves a similar change in attitude from the developed world — not "more programs and protocols" but "conversion of hearts to sincere solidarity."

His visit to the sick in Cameroon illustrated that the church must invest its resources in love and care for the needy, but with a special focus: Human suffering can only make sense in light of Christ's crucifixion and his "final victory" over death, he said.

Even the pope's defense of women's rights in Africa was very much a "Benedict" approach, based not on human rights declarations but on the biblical account of creation.

Here, too, his point that men and women have "complementary" roles will no doubt find critics.

The pope's method in Africa was not to lay down the law but to lay down a challenge, asking people to examine their own lives and their relationships in the light of the Gospel.

He believes that Christianity is a perfect fit for Africa but that, in view of cultural trends, it won't necessarily be an easy fit.

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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dancers from the Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dancing participate in the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dancers from the Rince Na H'eirann Irish dance school participate in the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.



Above: Knights of Columbus lead the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade down Tryon Street in uptown Charlotte for March 14, but the forecast for rain caused organizers to delay them one week



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Scouts and Scout masters from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte ride in a float during the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.



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Patrick's Day parade March 21



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The parade and festival were originally scheduled



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Volunteers with the Knights of Columbus hand out green beads along the St. Patrick's Day parade route in uptown Charlotte March 21.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of St. Patrick School in Charlotte participate in the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21. The school won the parade's "Most Green" entry.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Brigid Division 1 (above) and Ancient Order of Hibernians Mecklenburg Division 1 (below) participate in the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of St. Matthew School in Charlotte participate in the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of St. Ann School in Charlotte ride a float during the 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in uptown Charlotte March 21.

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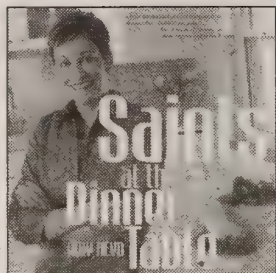
THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Reflections and menus offer satisfying glimpse into saints' lives

REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



"Saints at the Dinner Table" is simple and satisfying in its idea and execution: to create and present menus inspired by reflections on the lives of 12 saints.

The book is informed by author Amy Heyd's gratitude for her family, her faith and her vocation as a wife, mother of three children and gifted cook.

Heyd's inspiration for the book was the realization that her prayers were more confident when she felt a connection with a saint's life.

She writes about praying to St. Joseph in the dark hours when her father was hospitalized with a serious stroke.

"In that quiet and heart-wrenching moment, I felt that Joseph himself had stepped off the pedestal, took my hand and walked into my dad's room with me."

In St. Joseph's strength and presence she found a "wonderful listener" and "friend I could talk to in my time of need. In my quest to 'relate' to the saints, I started an intentioned journey to find a collection of saints on whom I could call."

She began with those who, like her, were interested in "food and caretaking."

The fruit of this journey is this lovely book of meditations and recipes that celebrate three biblical saints (Joseph, Andrew the Apostle and Martha); eight historical European saints (Brigid of Ireland, Isidore the farmer, Margaret of Scotland, Hildegard of Bingen, Clare of Assisi, Elizabeth of Hungary, Notburga and Didacus of Spain); and the recently canonized Sudanese St. Josephine Bakhita.

Each chapter begins with several pages of text (an explanation of the saint's historical or scriptural context, a reflection and a description of the meal) followed by the recipes (usually a main course, salad, vegetable and dessert) and concluding with thoughtful questions for dinner conversations and a prayer.

The meals are well-balanced, though heavy on meat and dairy products and sometimes an unfortunate use of processed commercial foods.

Many of the menu plans include traditional foods from a saint's country or region, such as the chicken saltimbocca

for St. Clare, colcannon for St. Brigid, and Sudanese beef and potatoes for St. Josephine. Other menu choices, like those honoring St. Joseph, are metaphorical.

"The lamb chops remind me of how Joseph helped raise Jesus, the lamb of God. The breadcrumbs on top of the Carpenter Tomatoes resemble the sawdust that must have scattered the floors in Joseph's workshop.

"The mashed potatoes are a traditional comfort food and signify the comfort that St. Joseph has always given me.

"The Rocky Road Cake is symbolic of the difficult roads, both literally and symbolically, that Mary and Joseph had to travel during Mary's pregnancy and throughout Jesus' childhood."

The best parts of this book are Heyd's simple, well-crafted reflections on how the saints speak to her life.

She writes about St. Josephine's remarkable imitation of Christ in the ability to forgive those who abused her when she was a slave and the acceptance of God's will in illness and infirmity.

"As she neared the end of her life, she couldn't walk and required a wheelchair to get around. The bishop approached Bakhita and asked her what she did while sitting in her wheelchair. Bakhita replied, 'What do I do? Exactly what you are doing — the will of God.'"

St. Josephine is an appropriate woman with whom to conclude a book that is ostensibly about cooking and saints, but is really about a joyful obedience to God's will.

The saints illustrate how a person can accept God's will in any (and all) circumstances, and Heyd's gentle book reminds us that charity, creativity and fruitful living flow from fidelity, whether one is a queen, a farmer, a cloistered contemplative, a fisherman or a contemporary homemaker.

Linner, a freelance writer, lives in Boston.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 5, 2009

April 5, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Contemplating Jesus' passion can help build our faith

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last year Easter came early, and I found myself in Washington on the weekend of Palm Sunday at an annual meeting I have with other editors and the leadership of Catholic News Service.

At a coffee shop near Dupont Circle that Sunday morning, I looked out on rain slick sidewalks, pondering some painful situations of people I care about very much.

One of my fellow editors had shared stories of serious health problems in his family. Another friend I'd spent time with that weekend was facing a trip home to Fort Worth for his mother's surgery to remove a large tumor, not knowing if it might be cancerous.

I had just received word of a trauma in my own family the night before.

We shared a sense of loss, a sense of fear of outcomes, a sense of powerlessness.

We also shared a mutual support.

Peering out into the light rain, I realized that none of what we each faced could compare to the pain of our Lord as he faced physical persecution and ultimately his crucifixion at the hands of at least some of the same people who honored him on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

No palms covered the streets here, just rain.

In the year since then, I have encountered the spirituality of the Focolare movement. One central element of that spirituality embraces the notion of focusing in prayer on the moment in which Jesus, on the cross, experienced separation from his Father, and seeking to identify with him in that moment of absolute abandonment.

I must confess that I can only read the passion readings during Lent. They affect me too much to allow me to read them frequently throughout the year.

But during the very hard year since last Palm Sunday, I have found strength in the practice of contemplating Jesus' great isolation so that he could redeem us from our sins — a greater loss than any of us will ever experience.

It is quite comforting somehow. I recommend it.

Questions:

Do you find contemplating Jesus in his last day difficult? How can you use contemplation of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection to build your own faith?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33; Monday (Lenten Weekday), Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; Wednesday, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; Thursday (St. Francis of Paola), Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; Friday, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; Saturday (St. Isidore), Ezekiel 37:21-28, Jeremiah 31:10-13, John 11:45-56.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5-11

Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Mark 11:1-10, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47; Monday (Monday of Holy Week), Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; Thursday (Holy Thursday), Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; Friday (Good Friday), Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; Saturday (Easter Vigil), Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Mark 16:1-7.

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'Riches to rags'

Filmmaker's personal conversion a boon for groups helping the poor

BY BETH GRIFFIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Gerard Thomas Straub recounted his "riches to rags" journey from atheistic, financially successful Hollywood television producer to secular Franciscan filmmaker documenting world poverty.

During a Lenten meditation for 200 people March 8 at Maryknoll headquarters, he described how his unexpected conversion during a 1995 visit to Collegio Sant'Isidoro, a Franciscan friary in Rome, led him to devote his talents to "putting the power of film at the service of the poor" by making documentaries about unsung nonprofit organizations.

He does not charge the groups for his work and he also travels the country showing the films and telling his conversion story to parish, high school and college groups and raising funds for the groups depicted.

"My initial impulse was to give ministries that are serving the poor a tool to raise funds. Film is so emotional and people respond to it," Straub told Catholic News Service.

"Then I started to get invited to colleges and I realized a vital part is the educational component. I could show the plight of the poor and connect faith to poverty. Then the only option is to do something," he said.

The images in Straub's films are raw and heartbreaking. He has documented grinding poverty in inner-city Los Angeles, Detroit and Philadelphia, as well as in Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

He said his experience living for a month with Franciscan friars operating St. Francis Inn, a soup kitchen in Philadelphia, challenged his preconceptions about the homeless and addicted.

"I met real people, people just like me in so many ways," he said. "It's

easy to label a homeless person as lazy or an alcoholic or drug addict as weak. The labels removed my obligation to do anything about it."

"But Jesus did not label or judge people. He reached out to them and excluded no one," he said.

Straub, 62, was raised Catholic in New York City and briefly attended a minor seminary. He landed an internship with "The Ed. Sullivan Show" on the CBS television network after high school and then moved into a clerical job there.

He progressed rapidly to network executive and produced soap operas, including "General Hospital."

He said he was "a committed atheist" who enjoyed the material successes of his chosen industry.

"I had reached a pinnacle in a very brutal, tough and competitive industry, but I began to slide away from God. I was very successful, but there was a deep emptiness," he said.

Straub said he walked away from an opportunity to produce yet another television program.

"We pandered to the lowest and most base in human nature," he said. "I knew TV was all about the commercials. And the commercials were about creating desires we don't have. It's all about pushing the envelope for rating points."

During a period of reading, writing and soul-searching, Straub explored the connection between Vincent van Gogh's creativity and St. Francis of Assisi's spirituality.

He said he was more interested in van Gogh and thought that "Francis was a pious fairy tale from the Middle Ages who had nothing to say to my modern, skeptical, secular life."

Looking for free lodging on a 1995 trip to Rome, he asked a Franciscan priest friend for a lead and was invited



CNS PHOTO BY JEREMY SEIFERT, COURTESY SAN DAMIANO FOUNDATION

Filmmaker Gerard Thomas Straub is pictured in 2008 with a young girl in Serere, Uganda, whom he sponsors through the nonprofit agency Village2Village. During a Lenten meditation at Maryknoll headquarters, Straub described what led him to devote his talents to serving the poor by making documentaries about unsung nonprofit organizations.

to stay at Collegio Sant'Isidoro, a Franciscan friary with the world's largest English-language library of literature on St. Francis.

When he arrived, he went to rest in the chapel and opened the Liturgy of the Hours randomly to Psalm 63, which begins "O God, you are my God whom I seek."

"An empty church and an empty man became a meeting place of grace," Straub said. "God broke through the silence and everything changed. I felt his overwhelming presence and I was transformed from an atheist to a pilgrim."

He returned to the sacraments and redirected his talents to making films for groups working to alleviate poverty in the United States and overseas. A theme that runs throughout the films is: "The best way to love God is to relieve the pain and suffering of others."

Straub said he hopes the films will connect the viewers emotionally to the poor and help them look at the poor through the eyes of faith.

"Slums in developing countries

are the cathedrals of the poor," he said. "They are holy ground. Jesus is here — in the form of people suffering from curable diseases."

He also intends the films to call people to action.

Straub challenged the audience at Maryknoll to take Jesus seriously and turn away from things that "block us from being fully united to God."

He said, "Christ isn't asking us to be successful or productive, but to be present to each other in acts of love and mercy."

Straub established the San Damiano Foundation to finance his films. It is named for the church outside Assisi, Italy, that was rehabilitated by St. Francis at the beginning of his ministry.

Book focuses on pope as communicator

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's ability to communicate was not primarily a result of his experience as an amateur actor, but was an expression of his theology, said the authors of a new book.

In speeches and writings, whether the audience was religious or not, the late pope continually emphasized the role of Jesus Christ as both the creator of words and as the embodiment of the Word, the authors said at a round-table discussion launching the book in February.

Christine Mugridge, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, and Salesian Sister Marie Gannon wrote "John Paul II: Development of a Theology of Communications," which was published by the Vatican publishing house. In his almost 27-year pontificate, Pope John Paul "was known for his communicative gifts," the authors wrote.

After analyzing both the pope's work and his communication style, the authors concluded that a principal theme of Pope John Paul's pontificate was "the person of Christ, who not only reveals/communicates the salvific plan of the Father, but reveals/communicates man to himself in the light of this divine revelation."

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Incardinating moment



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis looks on as Father Gnanapragasam Mariasoosai, parochial administrator of Our Lady of the Angels Mission in Marion, is incardinated into the Diocese of Charlotte March 24.

Incardination, which dates back to the sixth century, is the term for the attachment of a priest or deacon to a diocese, religious institution or society, personal prelature or secular institute.

Father Mariasoosai, who has served in the Diocese of Charlotte since 2003, originally is from the Archdiocese of Madurai, India.

During the incardination, the priest recites the Apostles' Creed, pledges fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church and pledges obedience to the local bishop.

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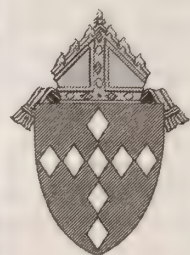
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Requirements include: a bachelor's degree in theology or related fields, and a minimum of five years ministering to Hispanic youth and young adults. Bilingual skills (English and Spanish) required. Knowledge of Hispanic and American culture; highly effective communicator; organizer; computer skills: Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.

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Oblate Father Thomas J. Fitzpatrick, 1932-2009

Longtime teacher, pastor remembered for service to church

CHILDS, Md. — Oblate Father Thomas J. Fitzpatrick, who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died March 16 at the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales community home in Childs, Md.

He was 77.

He had been retired in Childs after serving more than 25 years as a Catholic school teacher in Philadelphia and 20 years as a pastor in North Carolina churches.

A Mass of Christian burial was held March 20 at Our Lady of Light Chapel in Childs, with interment in the Oblates' cemetery.

A native of Wildwood, N.J., Father Fitzpatrick entered the seminary of the Oblates after graduating high school. He earned graduate degrees in theology and French from Catholic University of America and Niagara University, respectively.

He was ordained a priest in Wilmington, Del., in 1961.

Father Fitzpatrick taught religion and foreign languages at Father Judge High School and Northeast Catholic High School, both in Philadelphia, from 1961 until 1987. He then became pastor of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, N.C., where he served for 10 years.

Next he became pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville, ministering there for 10 years until his



Oblate Father Thomas J. Fitzpatrick

retirement in 2008.

"The death of Father Fitzpatrick is a great loss to the Oblates," said Oblate Father James Greenfield, provincial of the late pastor's religious community.

"Father Fitzpatrick was known for his commitment to our community and willingness to serve the church. He was also famous for his deep laugh. We will certainly miss him," said Father Greenfield.

In addition to his fellow Oblates, Father Fitzpatrick is survived by a sister, two sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Father Fitzpatrick's memory to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, P.O. Box 87, Childs, MD 21916-0087.

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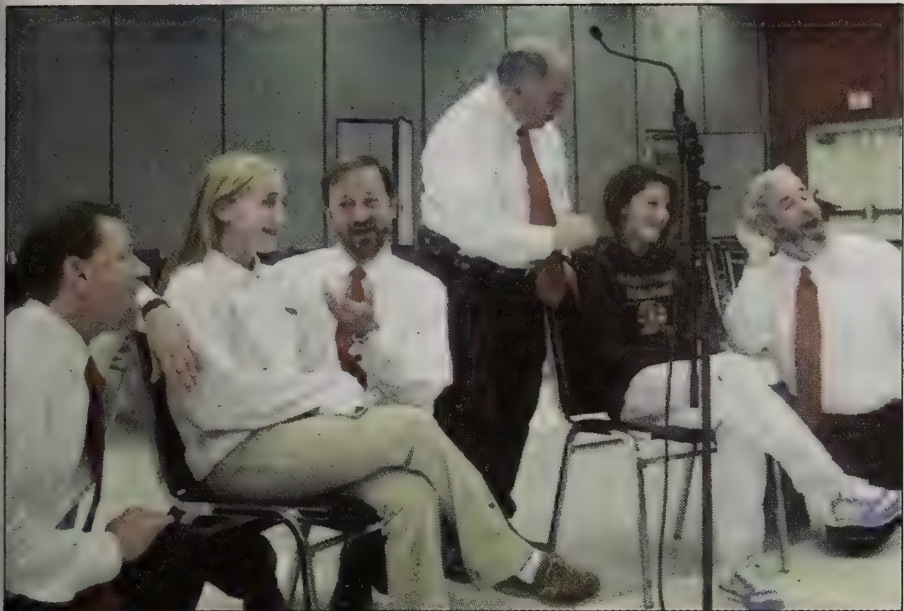
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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Sweet sounds



COURTESY PHOTO

Sound Counsel, a barbershop quartet, sings "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" for students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Feb. 11. The performance was part of a monthly lunch entertainment for students.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

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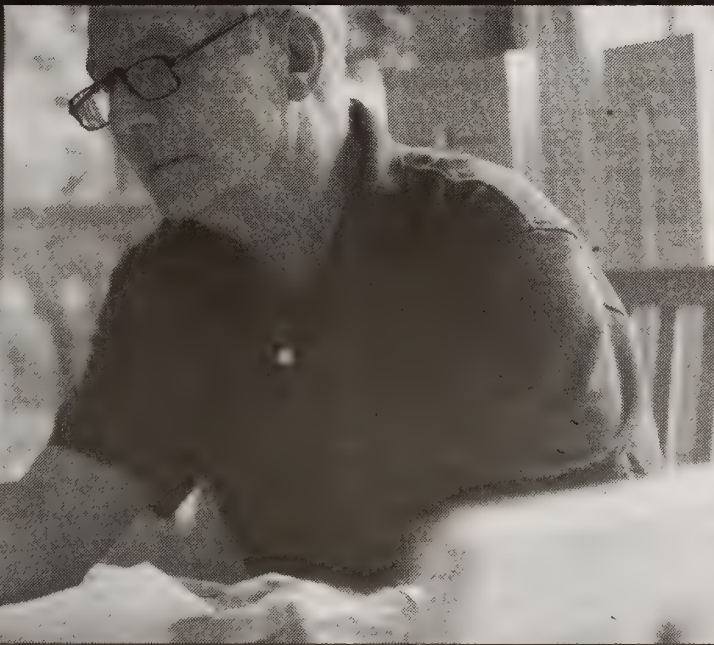
If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Worldly music



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro hold instruments brought to the school by musician Boris Sichon (second from left) March 9. Sichon, of Vancouver, Canada, travels and performs a one-man "World of Music" show featuring instruments from countries around the world, including Nepal, Japan, Germany, Australia, Bulgaria, Tibet, Armenia and Vietnam. Students participated throughout the performance by clapping to the beat and some students were selected to play various instruments with him. Pictured (from left) are Marissa Walsh, Sichon, Sebastian Lucek, Caroline Byerly, Joseph Farley and Cooper Murphy.

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Exploring
abstract art

COURTESY PHOTO

Ginny Boyd, an affiliate artist with McColl Center for Visual Art, directs third-graders in an art project at St. Patrick School in Charlotte Jan. 22. The project is part of a collaborative effort between the school and McColl Center to create abstract art panels exploring communities covered in the students' social studies curriculum. Over several months, the students have been designing, painting, mapping, stenciling, stitching and journaling during the course of the project. The final product will be unveiled in May.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The cross and joy

Jesus knew only way to find true joy was to empty oneself in loving others

God wants you to be happy, even though life is filled with misery. There will always be crosses, and yet we are called to live joyfully.

St. Paul helps us to master the Christian faith by understanding the relationship between God's love for us and the trials we have to endure in this world. He suffered mightily in his day, yet he commanded us to "rejoice always!"

We all suffer physical and emotional pain of some sort: Our bodies ache, people disappoint and abuse us, financial woes engender fear in us, and yet we are still called to live joyfully.

I write about joy all the time, and I suppose I get on the nerves of some people, but I feel driven by the Holy Spirit!

Occasionally St. Paul felt driven to boast about his many trials for the glory of God, and I feel that need right now.

In my Army days, I fired an M-1 rifle for endless hours on a practice range. I was an MP, and the company commander wanted us to fire expertly.

This bombardment of noise left me with a fierce buzzing in my ears to this day. I cope by uniting my inner buzzing with the song the angels sing before the Lord.

My tinnitus is no longer my enemy, but has become my friend, enabling me to pray without ceasing.

I have ulcerative colitis, and my 77-year-old arthritic knees give me fits. I'm a cancer survivor, so far that is, and I suffer from cardiac asthma.

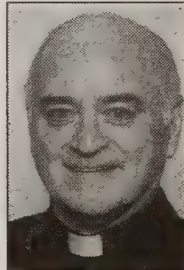
And yet, I get through it all by following St. Paul's advice to thank God "in all circumstances."

St. Paul's advice has kept me sane. All of my little miseries are under control with medication. I love my life and my vocation. I love to write, which is a vocation within a vocation, and I especially enjoy maintaining my Web site (www.messengerofjoy.com), which offers help on being more joyful.

How do we know that God loves us?

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOR
CNS COLUMNIST



It's simple really. Jesus Christ told us to call God "our Father." Doesn't every father want his children to be happy?

That's why St. Paul said, "Rejoice always. ... In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16, 18).

St. Paul took this magnificent idea from Jesus, who at the Last Supper said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11).

Pope John Paul II confirmed it: "Christ came to bring joy: joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and to friends, joy to workers and to scholars, joy to the sick and to elderly, joy to all humanity. In a true sense joy is the keynote of the Christian message and the recurring motif of the Gospels. ... Be messengers of joy."

Our response ought to be, "I will delight and rejoice in you" (Ps 9:3).

What about the cross?

When Jesus told us to "love one another as I have loved you," he led us to the cross. Wherever there is love, there is service; wherever there is service, there is sacrifice; and wherever there is sacrifice, there is suffering.

Joy and the cross are not contradictory but complementary. Jesus knew that the only way to find true joy was to empty oneself in loving others.

"The greatest honor you can give to almighty God is to live joyfully because of the knowledge of his love" (Julian of Norwich).

Suffering and death are not the end

Review of a pain study in light of Holy Week and Easter

A recent study on pain gives us a glimpse of just how potent focusing on our faith is, and how blessed we are to practice our belief, especially when the days leading up to Holy Week and Easter are filled with powerful images of grace, suffering, fellowship and hope.

The study, published in the Pain Relief Connection newsletter, was an interdisciplinary effort conducted at the University of Oxford.

It featured specialists in clinical neurology, divinity, theology and philosophy.

It aimed to determine whether religious belief had any influence on pain and/or the perception of pain. The subjects were a group of 12 practicing Roman Catholics and 12 other adults who were either atheists or agnostics.

During the study, every participant was subjected to painful electrical stimulation on their hands while being shown one of two pictures, either Sassoferrato's painting of the Virgin Mary ("The Madonna del Sassoferrato") or a similarly styled, nonreligious image, "Lady With an Ermine" by Leonardo da Vinci.

They then were given MRI scans to see what changes, if any, occurred to the pain- and perceived-pain-specific areas of their brains.

Both groups were shown to have experienced significant real pain when undergoing the stimulation. But the Catholic group was shown to be able to "down-regulate" the perceived intensity of it when presented with the religious painting.

The nonreligious group did not show modulation of pain when viewing either of the pictures, and thus felt the full impact of the pain stimulation.

These results suggest that religious people are capable of reassessing their pain, that is, of putting it into a context that enables them to endure it more successfully.

This is distinctly different from being cured of pain, which would suppose that the pain is no longer present.

Living Well

MAUREEN PRATT
CNS COLUMNIST



Pain, the study would suggest, can still be present if the sufferer focuses on the divine. That focus can bring greater calm and even peace in the midst of ongoing trauma.

This also brings up another practical application for us. By reassessing pain in the context of a religious image, the study's Catholic subjects were also engaging in an active, prayer-like relationship with the divine.

"The other image was valued as positive by the nonreligious group," said Miguel Farias, one of the study's researchers, "but it did not activate a complex system of beliefs, like it did for Catholics."

We needn't go through the rigors of a scientific test to benefit from the pain-taming blessings of our faith.

As we focus on God's good gifts in our lives, including other people and prayer, then we can better put our pain in a workable context that allows us to live our lives with purpose, charity and dignity.

This Easter season and beyond we can consider our pain in the context of Jesus' last days as a man, his walk to Calvary, and his suffering and death on the cross. His was the ultimate expression of living with great pain while focusing on the divine.

He did not withdraw from others or from the Father, even as he knew that each step was bringing him closer to agony.

Jesus showed that suffering and death are not the end. Through the joy of the resurrection, he gives us hope and light — precious gifts that can sustain us no matter how painful our lives.

Letter to the Editor

I was pleasantly surprised to find an article on evolution ("Exploring God's creation: After 150 years, evolution debate continues among people of faith," March 6) that enlightens, stimulates and challenges — so different from lukewarm articles that fail to inspire our need to explore and learn.

Evolution article enlightens, stimulates

I hope you are starting a new trend and will keep feeding our minds with articles that satisfy our desires to investigate and debate, and will incite discussions and exchanges of ideas between the readers. Challenge us and we will respond.

The Catholic News & Herald is

important to me — it is one of the connections that keep me in contact with my faith — so from now on I am looking forward to opening my copy with anticipation and shaking the inertia I have experienced so far.

— Ismini Frieser
Newton

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

Each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Easter hope

Our grief can blind us to God, who wants to remove it forever

Grief does strange things to us. It can keep us from seeing what is really going on in our lives, and prevent us from recognizing some of the most significant people we know.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene stood weeping by the tomb. Jesus himself stood there. But, St. John's Gospel tells us, "she did not know him" and supposed it was the gardener.

"Woman," he asked her, "Why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?"

The very cause of her grief was about to be removed by the one asking her about it. Little did she know that the reason for her weeping had already been destroyed. The Lord was present.

On Easter afternoon, two of the first Christians were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, "discussing as they went all that had happened. In the course of their lively exchange, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them. However, they were restrained from recognizing him. He said to them, 'What are you discussing as you go your way?'"

Again, the very reason for their grief had been destroyed by the one now asking them about their grief.

The Lord was present and was walking with them. Their hearts began to burn within them.

As the church continues to deal with the tragedy of abortion, it faces not only a sin against life but a sin against hope. We do not see abortion walking down the street. What we see is a woman, a child of God, who is caught in the grip of despair.

Even if she knows abortion is wrong, as most do, she sees no other way out. She, too, is in grief.

She feels she must choose between the baby's life and her life. The prospect of having the child is, psychologically, like a "death" to her: a death to her plans, her freedom, her future.

Grief does strange things. It can blind us to the value of the child.

It can also blind us to the presence of the Lord. He walks with us in our grief, and he asks us to share it with him so he can remove it forever.

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



Just as the Lord was present on the first Easter to those who thought they had lost him, so is he present today to those who grieve. He is present to those whose fear and despair are so great that they have their own children killed.

The Lord is present to others through his church. We, the people of life, enter into dialogue with the mother tempted to abort. "Why are you weeping?"

We learn her needs and fears, and we show her she is not alone. We walk with her, as the Lord walked with his grieving disciples.

We provide hope. We speak her name, we break bread with her, we lead her to the company of the other disciples. We bring her to the strength of the Eucharist.

Abortion will flee in the presence of Easter hope. The Lord still walks with his people.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

The disease of 'a thousand things to do'!

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



I'm the typical young adult: I have contracted an illness called "the disease of a thousand things to do."

That's how author Abby Seixas describes it in her insightful book, "Finding the Deep River Within."

It's a modern condition whereby human beings are always rushing, trying desperately to cross off every task on their to-do lists, and are bombarded by interruptions and information overload.

Does this sound familiar? Consider these observations she makes to bolster her case of what has become a very unbalanced and frenetic culture:

1) The average working couple in America spends 20 minutes a day together. 2) Family time has become a goal, an achievement, rather than a natural consequence of being a family. 3) Most Americans are trapped in a vicious cycle of overwork and overconsumption. 4) Dropping in on a neighbor is practically nonexistent. 5) Keeping busy and multitasking are praised, and slowing down frowned upon.

I've made my Lenten resolution to adhere to six practices that Abby offers as an antidote to this cultural epidemic of living so fast that we are blinded to the big picture, of having to multitask 24/7 and thereby squandering the opportunities to be present to the moment we are living. Here. Now.

Her practices include: taking time for yourself each week, erecting important personal and work boundaries, befriending feelings, taming self-expectations, practicing presence and doing something you love.

In my life this means starting my day with 20 minutes of prayer (when I read the Lectionary texts for the day and a meditation from a saint or spiritual writer); staying offline until noon and keeping Sunday Internet work-free; cramming an hour of personal time into each week where I get to do NOTHING.

I want these 40 days before Easter to be an exercise of jumping off the treadmill of my own packed schedules and expectations. I guess I want to stop living each day like a waitress taking orders, trying to remember all the special requests (skip the mayonnaise, skim milk only, coleslaw, no fries).

I'm going after the results Abby promises if we are disciplined enough to slow down and take each minute at a time. She writes, "Access to the deeper realms, within us gives back to us our juice, our vital energy and resilience. ... We find a sense of connection to something larger than our own individual concerns and a sense of meaning that makes what we do with our time feel worthwhile."

The Holocaust: It still rightly haunts us

Pope Benedict's words disprove criticism, emphasize forgiveness

I was appalled earlier this year when the media attacked Pope Benedict XVI as being a Holocaust denier when he lifted the excommunication of four schismatic Society of St. Pius X bishops.

This gave fuel to the fire of such writers as "nonbeliever" Christopher Hitchens, as he calls himself. Writing in Newsweek, Hitchens jumped to an unproven conclusion that "by reconciling with extremist bishops, Benedict embraces the far-right fringe."

I have heard firsthand, however, how our pope never denied the Holocaust. I was invited to cover an unprecedented conference of Christians and Jews in Jerusalem in February 1994. The Catholic Church was represented by our pope, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

I have a copy of his talk, and I quote: "The history of the relationship between Israel and Christendom is drenched with blood and tears. It is a history of mistrust and hostility, but also — thank God — a history marked again and again by attempts at forgiveness, understanding and mutual acceptance."

"After Auschwitz, the message of reconciliation and acceptance permits no deferral."

"Even if we know that Auschwitz is the gruesome expression of an ideology that not only wanted to destroy Judaism

but also hated and sought to eradicate from Christianity its Jewish heritage, the question remains, What could be the reason for so much historical hostility between those who actually must belong together because of their faith in the one God and commitment to his will?"

Cardinal Ratzinger, who was a youngster when the Nazis took over his land of Germany, spoke personally of forgiveness:

"Already as a child ... I could not understand how some people wanted to derive a condemnation of the Jews from the death of Jesus because the following thought had penetrated my soul as something profoundly consoling: Jesus' blood raises no calls for retaliation, but calls all to reconciliation" — which is where the forgiveness Jesus speaks of comes in.

On that stage in an amphitheatre in Jerusalem, Cardinal Ratzinger concluded to thundering applause:

"Jews and Christians should accept each other in profound inner reconciliation, neither in disregard of their faith nor in its denial, but out of the depth of faith itself. In their mutual reconciliation they should become a force for peace in and for the world."

There is more to remember. In the Jubilee Year of 2000, our late

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



Pope John Paul II said in all honesty that our church needed to seek forgiveness for some of its wrongs done in the past.

He, along with Cardinal Ratzinger, then the president of the International Theological Commission, proposed a study: "Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past." Not forgotten in this document is the "tormented history" of the relations between Christians and Jews.

Wrote Cardinal Ratzinger: "The Shoah was certainly the result of the pagan ideology that was Nazism, animated by a merciless anti-Semitism that not only despised the faith of the Jewish people, but also denied their very human dignity."

"Nevertheless, it may be asked whether the Nazi persecution of the Jews was not made easier by the anti-Jewish prejudices imbedded in some Christian minds and hearts. ...

"There is no doubt that there were many Christians who risked their lives to save and to help their Jewish neighbors. ... The hostility or mistrust shown by numerous Christians toward Jews over the course of time is a painful historical fact ... which requires repentance."

There is no way this good man — now Pope Benedict XVI — can be justly accused of denying the Holocaust!

A 'beacon of hope in this community'

Catholic church reopens in New Orleans' Katrina-damaged 9th Ward

BY CHRISTINE BORDELON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS — A trumpet blared the hymn "We Have Come Into This House" as about 400 people began singing and marching around the block to officially reopen St. David Church in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans.

The church had been closed for nearly four years after it was damaged by the flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina.

"Sept. 8, 2007, was the official start of the rebuilding of St. David," said parishioner Michael Gordon, referring to the day when parishioners installed a church subfloor in preparation for the renovations.

That long road to reopening ended March 1 when New Orleans Auxiliary Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, the principal celebrant for the dedication Mass, handed the church keys to Josephite Father Joe Campion, pastor of the church, who unlocked the main entrance to start the rite of dedication.

The church stayed unlit throughout



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK METHE, CLARION HERALD

Auxiliary Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of New Orleans blesses the baptismal font at the restored St. David Church in New Orleans March 1. At right is Josephite Father Joseph Campion, pastor of the church. The church had been closed for nearly four years after it was damaged by the flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina.

the readings, which included a passage from Genesis about Noah and the flood.

"In a wonderful way now you have been very faithful to God even though

it has not been easy," Bishop Fabre said, comparing the parishioners' flood experience and faith to that of Noah.

He called the reopening of St. David Church a "beacon of hope in this community."

"Just as hope is the first thing that is lost, hope is the first thing to emerge from all that has been broken," Bishop Fabre said.

The bishop told St. David Church parishioners and their friends that even though they returned to their physical church their faith proved to be larger than any building.

At the end of the Mass, Father Campion reiterated the long journey home since Hurricane Katrina. He recalled his exile with other Josephite priests to Breaux Bridge where a Josephite Recovery Center was established.

His current pastoral assistant, Holy Family Sister Teresa Rooney, helped run the center to aid hurricane victims and reunite parishioners.

"It was there we began to bring our church together," Father Campion said.

He said St. David Church, which was renovated in 1990, had to be completely restored after Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005. The process began in December of that year when the Alleluia

Community Church from Augusta, Ga., gutted the church and rectory.

Former-St. David Church parishioners who had returned to New Orleans were worshipping at Blessed Sacrament Church, another Josephite parish, where Father Campion lived after the storm.

Then, parishioners from St. David Church and nearby St. Maurice Church were asked to worship at St. Maurice Church, without utilities. An average of 80 to 90 people attended Mass, a number that steadily increased in recent months.

A transitional leadership team was established at St. Maurice Church to jump-start basic ministries such as evangelization, social outreach and finances.

By July 2008, after assessing storm damages and population counts at both parishes, the archdiocese announced that St. David and St. Maurice churches would merge and worship at St. David Church.

The cost to reopen St. Maurice Church, which was established in 1852, was estimated at \$2 million, compared to \$600,000 for St. David Church, established in 1937.

By August 2008, St. Rita Church in New York had shipped pews, a sound system, vestments, Stations of the Cross, a baptismal font and statues to St. David Church, making worship possible.

"They sent everything to us that they had because their church was closed," Sister Rooney said. "The pews were smaller and didn't exactly fit, but it kept us going."

At the dedication Mass, Father Campion recognized many of those who had contributed to the reopening of St. David Church, including 21 parishioners from St. David of Wales Church in Willow Grove, Pa. The Pennsylvania parish, a sister parish of its namesake before Katrina, supported the New Orleans parish with fundraisers and donated a bronze replica of St. David of Wales for the rededication.

Father Campion said the storm awakened many to being open to change. The church's new motto, "Be joyful, keep your faith and do the small things in life," was displayed on a banner at the Mass.

Father Campion said he also hopes to rebuild the convent and community center and is considering adding a Spanish Mass or perhaps a Saturday vigil Mass.

"We're going to get out of our old patterns and evangelize beyond our boundaries," he said. "The small things — that's going to be our future."

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"But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly"

— Pope John Paul



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(The Gospel of Life, John Paul II)



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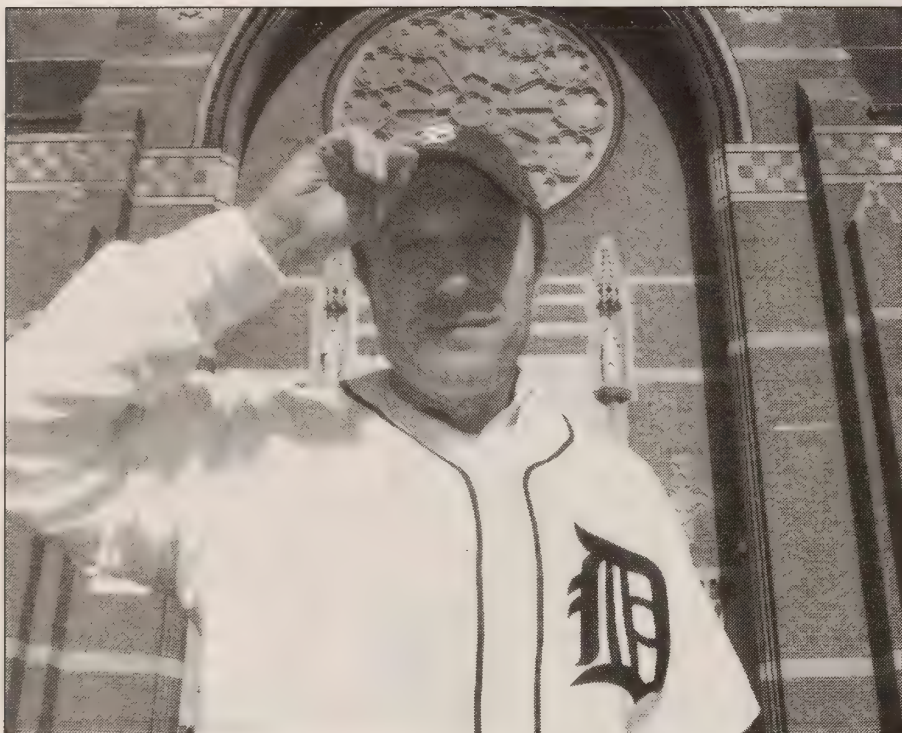
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THE CATHOLIC
NEWS HERALD

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAITH OVER FUN



CNS PHOTO BY MARILYNN G. HEWITT, THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Michael Ochab poses with some of his Detroit Tigers gear on the steps of St. Florian Church in Detroit where he will be on Good Friday, which this year is also opening day for the Tigers' season.

Baseball home opener on Good Friday ends 20-year attendance streak

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. (CNS) — Michael Ochab's 20-year streak of rooting for the Detroit Tigers as part of the opening day crowd is coming to an end. Home opening day this year falls on Good Friday, April 10.

"It's a no-brainer for me," said the 47-year-old Ochab. "He died for us on that cross."

As the first pitch crosses the mound at Comerica Park, just after the 1:05 p.m. start of his beloved Tigers facing off against the Texas Rangers, Ochab will be in St. Florian Church for Good Friday services. He and his eight siblings grew up in the parish, attended the grade school and high school, and he said he spent years there as an altar server.

"I like to have fun on opening day," said Ochab. "I like to watch the revelries and all. But it just doesn't seem appropriate this year."

Ron Colangelo, vice president for communications for the Detroit Tigers, told The Michigan Catholic, Detroit's archdiocesan newspaper, that the league "tries to accommodate the clubs the best it can. In this instance, we had the Final Four being played on Monday (April 6) so they'll open the season on the road."

As it turns out, each of the 30 teams in Major League Baseball play on Good Friday this year, though not all are afternoon games.

"And don't forget," Colangelo said, "the NBA plays on Christmas and so does the NFL."

When the Tigers' opening day fell on Holy Thursday in 2004, Ochab was there as the Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins

10-6, "but it didn't really feel as festive."

After the afternoon game, he headed to Mass.

Jesuit Father Mark George, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Detroit, said being within walking distance of Comerica Park and Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions football team, is an opportunity for his parish.

"We're trying to make sure all the hotels in the area know we're here so people can plan for Palm Sunday and Good Friday while they're here," he said.

This year basketball's Final Four game will be played at Ford Field, an indoor stadium, on the weekend of Palm Sunday.

He was an associate pastor in Cleveland two years ago when the opening day for the Indians fell on Good Friday. Although the game was started, it couldn't be finished and was called because of a snowstorm.

"Not only was that game snowed out, so was their whole first series. Was it because they tried to play opening day on Good Friday? That's one interpretation," he said with a laugh.

While Ochab said he's hoping others also pick Good Friday services over the game, he knows the already-sold-out stadium will be filled with people of all faiths.

Ochab is a 27-game ticket holder, and an opening-game ticket was included in his plan. He muses that it might go to a Muslim friend "since I don't think I'd give it to another Catholic or a Christian."

And in the meantime, he said, "I'm praying for rain."

Bishops remind Congress to remember poor, vulnerable in budget

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Congress must remember "the least of these" in society as it makes choices on the federal budget for fiscal year 2010, according to the chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees in a joint March 26 letter to members of Congress.

Among the domestic items the bishops emphasized in their letter were health care, affordable housing, climate change, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarships program for the District of Columbia, funding for federal child nutrition programs, and domestic agricultural supports for smaller farms.

On international issues, the bishops stressed an increase in the international affairs budget, the Migration and Refugee Assistance account, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement budget.

"Our faith and moral principles call us to measure economic decisions on whether they enhance or undermine the lives of those most in need," said Bishops Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., and

William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in their letter.

Bishop Hubbard is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. Bishop Murphy is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

The bishops also asked that Congress pass a budget that does not cut incentives for charitable giving.

"The budget choices of Congress have clear moral and human dimensions; they reflect our values as a people," they said. "Our plea is simple: Put the poor and vulnerable first."

"Too often the weak and vulnerable are not heard in the budget debate," Bishops Hubbard and Murphy said.

"While they do not have powerful lobbyists, poor children and their families have compelling needs that have a priority claim on our consciences and our choices as the nation allocates limited federal resources," they said.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

Lent at 6:15 p.m. For more information, call (704) 846-7753.

CHARLOTTE — A Mass in Polish will be held at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Palm Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. Confessions will be available from 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to *Theology on Tap*, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert." This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizza/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore the various events associated with the Lenten season. On April 16, Chris Lynch will present the topic "The Resurrection and Easter Sunday." Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to participate in the celebration of *Divine Mercy Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19. The celebration will include a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered prior to the celebration. Individuals should check the times offered in their respective parishes.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., April 15 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — The 40 Hours for Life prayer vigil is being held outside A Preferred Women's Health Center, 3220 Latrobe Dr., through

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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APRIL 3, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 22

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican commission on China meets to discuss life of church in China

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican commission on the church in China was holding its second meeting March 30-April 1, looking at important issues concerning the life of the church in China.

The commission is made up of the heads of several Vatican congregations and offices, "representatives of the Chinese episcopacy" and representatives of religious orders working in China, the Vatican press office said in a statement March 28.

The first item of business, the Vatican said, was to discuss the life of the church in China in light of Pope Benedict XVI's June 2007 letter to Chinese Catholics.

The papal letter encouraged cooperation between clandestine Catholic communities and those officially registered with China's communist government; called for dialogue with the government on issues such as the

appointment of bishops; and asked government-registered bishops who have secretly reconciled with the Vatican to make that fact clear to their faithful.

The pope also used the letter to announce the formation of the commission for discussing issues of major importance for the church.

The commission's first meeting was held March 10-12 last year and specifically discussed reactions to the pope's letter to Chinese Catholics and exchanged information and experiences concerning the life and activity of the church in China.

The commission, which did not include any bishops from China, also reflected on practical ways for the church to be an "instrument of salvation for the Chinese people," a discussion which included reconciliation between the divided Chinese Catholic communities and the governance of Chinese Catholic dioceses.

Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

SYLVA — "The Passion of Our Lord," a living re-enactment by the Hispanic community, will take place on Good Friday, April 10, at 1 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. All are invited to attend this annual spiritual event. Praying the Stations of the Cross will be held in the church immediately following. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496 or e-mail StMarys@dnnet.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — The 40 Hours for Life prayer vigil is being held outside Forsyth Women's Center/Planned Parenthood, 3000 Maplewood Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through April 5. The vigil is held on the public sidewalk directly across the street from the center. Parking is available on Bodford St. only, one block from the prayer site. For more information or to sign up, visit www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem or call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmooore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican orders apostolic visitation of Legionaries of Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has ordered an apostolic visitation of the institutions of the Legionaries of Christ following disclosures of sexual impropriety by the order's late founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado.

The announcement of the unusual investigation was posted on the Web site of the Legionaries of Christ March 31, along with the text of a letter informing the Legionaries of the pope's decision.

The letter, written by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said the pope wanted to help the Legionaries of Christ deal with its present problems with "truth and transparency."

It said the visitation would be carried out by "a team of prelates," who were not identified.

Apostolic visitation is a form of internal church investigation ordered by a pope and undertaken by his delegate or delegates. The pope sets the jurisdiction and powers of the visitation, which usually ends with the submission of a report to the Holy See.

In February, Legionaries of Christ officials in Rome disclosed that Father

Maciel had fathered a child. Sources in Rome said the order also was looking into accusations of financial irregularities by Father Maciel.

In the past, Father Maciel had been accused of sexually abusing young seminarians in the order. After investigating those allegations, the Vatican in 2006 told Father Maciel to renounce public ministry as a priest and spend the rest of his life in prayer and penitence; the Vatican did not, however, confirm that sexual abuse had occurred.

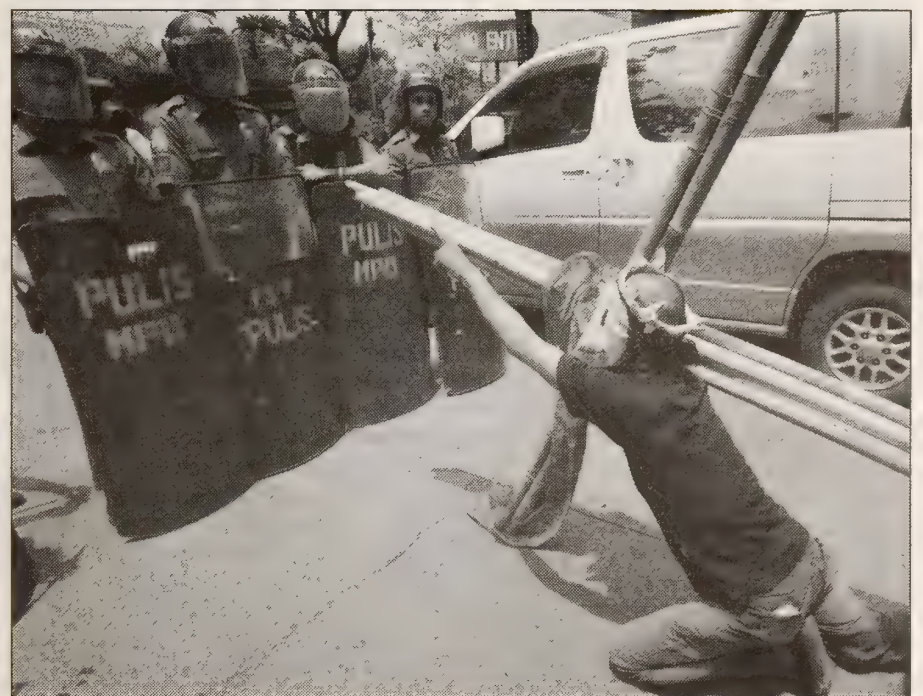
Father Maciel died Jan. 30, 2008, at the age of 87.

Father Alvaro Corcuera, director general of the Legionaries and its lay association, Regnum Christi, said in an online statement that the visitation "is the beginning of a process in which the Legion will fully and gratefully participate."

He said it would begin after Easter and would probably last several months.

Several Vatican officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the effectiveness of an apostolic visitation would depend in large part on cooperation by Legionaries of Christ leadership.

Protesting poverty



CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

Policemen block a theater artist dramatizing the situation of the poor during a protest outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, April 1. A few days before the start of Holy Week, protesters criticized the government for allegedly neglecting the plight of the poor as prices of basic goods and services continue to soar amid the global economic crisis.

Head of Holy Cross order asks Obama to rethink position on abortion

ROME (CNS) — The head of the Holy Cross religious order that founded the University of Notre Dame has written to U.S. President Barack Obama and asked him to rethink his positions on abortion and other life issues.

U.S. Father Hugh Cleary, Holy Cross superior general in Rome, said that when Obama receives an honorary degree from the Indiana university and delivers

the commencement address in May, he should take to heart the objections of Catholics who have been scandalized by the invitation.

Father Cleary asked the president to use the occasion to "give your conscience a fresh opportunity to be formed anew in a holy awe and reverence before human life in every form at every stage — from conception to natural death."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 7 (10 a.m.)
Chrism Mass
 St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 9 (7 p.m.)
Mass of the Lord's Supper
 St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 10 (3 p.m.)
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 11 (8 p.m.)
Easter Vigil
 St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Helping the homeless



COURTESY PHOTO

Tony Whitesell, parish coordinator of the temporary winter homeless shelter at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, and David and Kathy Collins, directors of House of Refuge, stand next to a "St. Joseph table" during a dinner at the church March 18, vigil of the feast of St. Joseph. The dinner marked the final night of the shelter, which ran Nov. 22, 2008-March 18, and to show appreciation for the more than 120 volunteer monitors and guests who participated.

Cots, blankets, pillows and other supplies were donated to the shelter, held in the church basement from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily, with an average of seven guests and three monitors per night.

The shelter began because of the lack of available space for homeless persons in Burke County shelters. House of Refuge, a nonprofit Christian ministry, was able to accommodate only six homeless persons at a time, so the Collinses helped the parish in their outreach efforts to the homeless.

Volunteer appreciation



COURTESY PHOTO

Jerry Siemann, Margaret Rose and Chuck Rose, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, are honored during the parish Ladies Guild appreciation luncheon March 5. The three were honored, along with parishioner Linda Stadnick (who was unable to attend), for their outstanding volunteer service to the parish and community.

Bowling event raises funds

BELMONT — More than 900 bowlers and 100 volunteers participated in Holy Angels' 17th annual All Star Angel Bowl in Gastonia March 14.

Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont that provides residential services and programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities.

The Angel Bowl is Holy Angels' largest fundraising event. Businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations participated in the bowl-athon by forming more than 180 five-person teams, with each bowler challenged to raise at least \$100 in pledges.

Holy Angels' residents also participated and led players in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In its 16-year history, the Angel Bowl has raised more than \$1.3 million. Participants of the recent Angel Bowl continue to turn in donations and pledges from their fundraising efforts as the Holy Angels foundation nears its \$100,000 goal for the year.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Holy Angels, visit www.holyangelsnc.org or call (704) 825-4161.



COURTESY PHOTO

A resident of Holy Angels participates in the annual All Star Angel Bowl fundraiser in Gastonia March 14.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of local people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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FROM THE COVER

Youths, young adults gather for prayer, reflection

PILGRIMS, from page 1

and deacons, women religious and monks from Belmont Abbey.

The pilgrimage, a day of prayer and reflection, was part of the diocese's preparation for the fifth diocesan Eucharistic Congress, themed "The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us," to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25-26.

"The words from St. John's Gospel are the perfect theme to reflect on the meaning of the Eucharist," said Bishop Jugis.

"We usually hear these words during the Christmas season," he said, "but they are appropriate any time of year."

"Two thousand years ago Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit," said Bishop Jugis, reflecting on the theme.

Today, "the Word becomes flesh once again here in the holy Eucharist," he said. "We see the mystery right here before us, there in the monstrance. This is the real presence of Christ."

"I think it was a great success," said Jenny Ryan, campus ministry director at Belmont Abbey College. "The students who participated seemed very engaged and very enthusiastic."

The day included a eucharistic



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Belmont Abbey College staff and student volunteers direct a crowd of youth and young adult participants in singing praise and worship music during the fifth annual Lenten spiritual pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey March 29. There were approximately 450 participants in this year's pilgrimage, which included a eucharistic procession, Benediction, the sacrament of reconciliation and vespers with the monks of Belmont Abbey.

procession, Benediction, the sacrament of reconciliation and vespers with the monks of Belmont Abbey.

"It was really student organized and

student led," Ryan said, referring to the 15 Belmont Abbey student volunteers who helped coordinate the event.

Student volunteers gave witness

talks and led the youths in singing praise and worship music.

"I think the high school and middle school youths look up to that," said Ryan, "I think that had a lot to do with the success of the event."

Katie Bess, youth activity coordinator at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, brought seven youths to the pilgrimage.

"I think it's important for them to see other people their age committed to the church and the life of the church," said Bess.

One of the speakers, Brother Edward Mancuso of Belmont Abbey, talked about the importance of faith in defining good relationships.

"It is important to have friends who support your faith," he said.

He shared the importance of the Eucharist in his life and how it led him to his vocation as a monk.

"The Eucharist started to play a defining role in my life when I went to college," said Brother Mancuso of his time at St. Bonaventure University in New York. He talked about the graces that come from receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

"Not everyone can attend Mass each day," said Brother Mancuso, "but when possible, Jesus is waiting to energize your day."

Christ in the Eucharist is a gift to us from the Lord, said Bishop Jugis, and it is not based on anything "we could have merited or deserved."

"It is my hope that as you offer yourself to Christ you will be a blessing for your friends and family and that the Lord will choose some of you to offer yourselves as priests or as brothers or sisters," said Bishop Jugis in his address to the pilgrims. "Many good works come from a person who is offering himself to God."

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Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Charleston bishop says agenda is to meet needs

BISHOP, from page 1

York and elsewhere all came to celebrate with him.

An overflow crowd of about 125 filled the Cathedral Center hall and joined the ceremony through video feed. Others watched from homes, schools and churches via streaming video on the Internet. The diocesan Web site received more than 6,500 hits during the live feed. The ordination was also broadcast on Mediatrix Catholic radio and catholicradiosc.com.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan, archbishop of New York, was the principal consecrator in the absence of Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, who was unable to attend.

Co-consecrators were Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Bishop Robert J. Baker of the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., who led the Diocese of Charleston from 1999 until September 2007.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte was a concelebrant of the ordination Mass, as was Archbishop Pietro Sambini, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Sambini read from the apostolic letter that officially called Bishop Guglielmone to service in the diocese. Prior to becoming bishop, he was rector at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.

"We are truly confident that as you faithfully teach and govern in the name of the Lord you will ... be a symbol of unity to all entrusted to your pastoral care," Archbishop Sambini said.

To be a bishop

In his homily, Cardinal Egan urged Bishop Guglielmone to commit himself to bear witness to the Gospel, to serve others and "love all whom God places in your care ... including the poor and the weak, the immigrant and the stranger."

He also referred to the bishop's strong Catholic family heritage and to his late parents.

"Carolina and Francesco are praying for you in heaven and will be praying for you every day," he said.

"You are the 13th bishop of one of the most historic and esteemed dioceses in the nation," he said. "... You are standing on the shoulders of wonderful successors of the apostles. I've known six of the previous 12 bishops personally. If you need any help, just call me in New York."

Cardinal Egan said it was appropriate that the ordination should take place on the feast of the Annunciation.

"On this day when we remember Mary handing herself totally over to the Lord, today you are making the same commitment," he said. "Lead your people in prayer ... the greatest of all being the Eucharist. You are becoming bishop in a time of considerable turmoil in the nation and the world. People will look to you for leadership, unity and prayer."

Cardinal Egan then led the Promise of the Elect, and asked Bishop Guglielmone to faithfully follow the Gospel and carry out his work as bishop. The Litany of Supplication followed as the bishop prostrated himself on the floor and the choir led the congregation in the Litany of the Saints.

Cardinal Egan and Bishops Baker and Murphy then performed the laying on of hands and led the prayer of ordination. Cardinal Egan anointed Bishop Guglielmone with sacred chrism, or holy oil.

During the Prayer of Ordination, two deacons held the Book of the Gospels over the bishop's head to symbolize the importance of following the word of God.

Bishop Guglielmone received the kiss of peace from the consecrators and the 12 other visiting bishops. He also officially received the three symbols of his office — his ring, miter and crosier — and took his seat in the bishop's chair, called the cathedra.

'Pilgrimage of life'

Toward the end of the ceremony, the bishop walked around the cathedral and blessed everyone while the choir sang the hymn, "Te Deum." He also offered some remarks.

"The first word that comes to my mind is 'Wow!' What a wonderful day this is for me personally," he said. "I am so happy to be with you as your bishop ... I hope that I can be for you all that you hope for and pray for, and that we can always be a people of hope. I can't help but be overwhelmed at all the love I've received, the Southern hospitality."

Bishop Guglielmone promised to support the priests and deacons, men and women religious, and lay people of the diocese as they spread the Gospel message, and in turn asked for their support and prayers.

He said he was aware of the challenges facing the diocese and society in general during the recent economic downturn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE BENTON/THE CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte lays hands on Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston during his episcopal ordination at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, S.C. March 25.

"Folks, we're on the pilgrimage of life together, and we need each other ... if we're going to meet the challenges, we need to work together," he said. "I can't say I have an agenda. My only agenda is to form one with you as we forge on to meet the needs of God's people."

Bishop Guglielmone thanked everyone who supported him as a priest in New York. He became emotional as he explained that the crosier he carried was used by the Long Island bishop who ordained him.

He also thanked Bishop Baker and retired Bishop David B. Thompson for their help in learning about the diocese, and paid tribute to Msgr. Martin T. Laughlin, who served as diocesan administrator during the 17 months the diocese was without a bishop.

State and local dignitaries and other Christian clergy also attended the ceremony.

The bishop's two older brothers, Nick Dana and Tito Guglielmone, attended with their wives and children.

"This was very powerful. I have no aversion to saying I was crying during parts of it," said Tito, who lives in Callicoon, N.Y. "He's a wonderful person, priest and human being. He'll reach out to everyone."

"The ceremony was magnificent," Nick said. "I know he loves people, but it's now obvious how people here already love him."

Christina Lee Knauss is a reporter with the Catholic Miscellany in Charleston, S.C.

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FROM THE COVER

CCHS graduate to be ordained Oratorian priest

CALLING, from page 1

living for?"

Although he had been a star high school athlete who aspired to play college basketball, Eades recalled attending Charlotte Hornets games and thinking about what an NBA player does at the end of the season.

"Somehow I used to think, once one reaches the height of the basketball world, then what does one do the next day?" he said. "Is what we are living for going to last forever or not? There has to be something greater to live for."

Eades, a native of Oxford, Ohio, who grew up in Charlotte and attended St. Gabriel Church, called those reflective moments in his life a "tremendous grace" in his spiritual journey toward what he is living for today: the Catholic priesthood.

Ordained a transitional deacon July 14, Deacon Eades will be ordained to the priesthood for the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Toronto, Canada, May 26.

"A vocation is a gift for the whole church," said Deacon Eades, referring to being ordained outside of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Deacon Eades attributes his spiritual growth and vocational call to the influence of his parents and priests — notably, Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, who had served as chaplain at Charlotte Catholic.

While in high school, Deacon Eades considered becoming an investment banker, politician or lawyer, but soon realized he wanted to fulfill his desire to serve the church through the priesthood.

"I began to think there was nothing higher or more noble than the Catholic priesthood — without priests, there

would be neither the Eucharist nor confession," said Deacon Eades.

In college, his attitude toward the priesthood changed from "a glorious idea for others" to "it's for me."

After two years of studying philosophy and economics at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., Deacon Eades became a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte and completed his studies — earning a licentiate in philosophy — from Catholic University of America.

During his time at Catholic University, Deacon Eades discovered the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, a congregation of Catholic priests and lay brothers who live together in community and are bound together by no formal vows, but only by the bond of charity.

London-born Cardinal John Henry Newman founded the English community of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in 1848.

Having both an interest in St. Philip and Cardinal Newman, Deacon Eades entered the novitiate at the Toronto oratory in 2004 where he "found his home."

The congregation has about 70 oratories around the world, but Deacon Eades was drawn to the Toronto oratory because of its founder, Oratorian Father Jonathan Robinson.

"His understanding of the principles of the spiritual life and his diagnosis of the current difficulties facing the church deeply impressed me," said Deacon Eades.

"I wanted to be formed in the house he built with its care for the Latin liturgy, the seriousness of its life of prayer and the combination of parish work and teaching," he said.

Deciding to pursue the priesthood in his early 20s was important to Deacon Eades.

"We only have so much time in our life — why put God off?" he said. "Those who enter when they are young ... can



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TORONTO ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI

Michael Eades, a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, is ordained to the transitional diaconate by Toronto Archbishop Thomas C. Collins at the Toronto Oratory of St. Philip Neri July 14, 2008.

live for Christ more single mindedly."

"God desires our happiness," said Deacon Eades. "If God made you to do something, it's in your best interest to do it. You don't lose anything when you give your life to God ... much depends on when we respond or not."

To young people considering calls to the priesthood or religious life, Deacon Eades recommends they "be generous with Jesus — in prayer, spiritual reading and confession. He cannot be

outdone in generosity."

After his priestly ordination May 26, Deacon Eades will celebrate his first public Mass — in the extraordinary form — at the Toronto oratory May 27.

He will return to the Diocese of Charlotte and celebrate Mass in the ordinary form at his home parish of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte June 20.

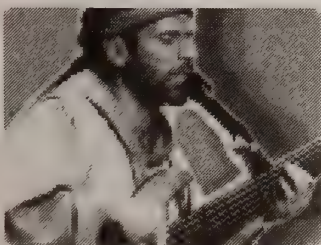
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St. Philip Neri starts Seven Churches pilgrimage

The devotion to the Seven Churches in Rome is attributed to St. Philip Neri, who lived 1515-1595.

Traditionally, the Seven Churches include the four major basilicas — St. John Lateran, St. Peter (at the Vatican), St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major — along with the following three minor basilicas — St. Laurence, Santa Croce and St. Sebastian.

Throughout his ministry, St. Philip had a great devotion to the Seven Churches. The pilgrimage took penitents to the seven churches, where they would hear sermons, attend Mass, pray and perform other spiritual acts.

St. Philip used the pilgrimage as an alternative to Carnival to help young men avoid vice and sin. The pilgrimage grew from fewer than 30 to more than 2,000 participants during St. Philip's life.

— Mary B. Worthington

WAY OF THE CROSS

First Station



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH
Holy Infant Church, Reidsville

Second Station

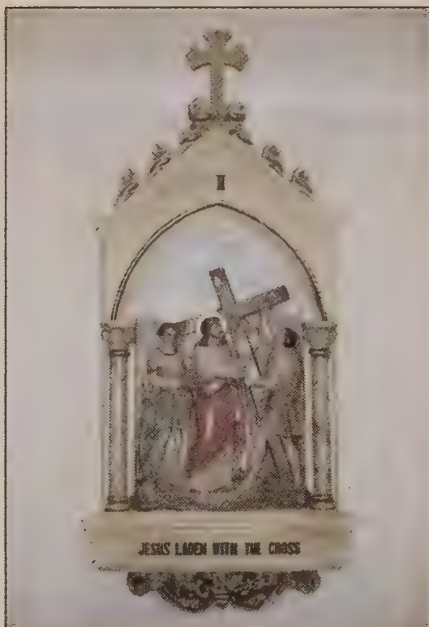


PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville

Third Station

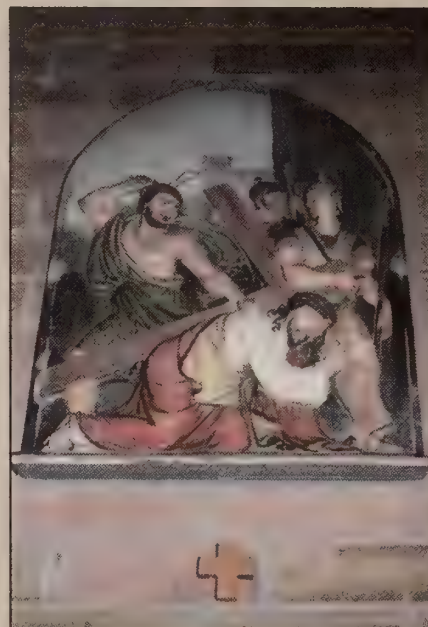


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME
Belmont Abbey Basilica, Belmont

Fourth Station



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

The Way of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, or Way of the Cross, is the devotion commemorating the final hours, or Passion, of Jesus.

The devotion is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death.

This devotion may be done at any time, but it is most commonly done during Lent, especially on Good Friday and on Friday evenings during Lent.

Ninth Station



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME
St. Stephen Mission, Eden

Tenth Station



PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem



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WAY OF THE CROSS

Fifth Station



PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

Sixth Station



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Seventh Station

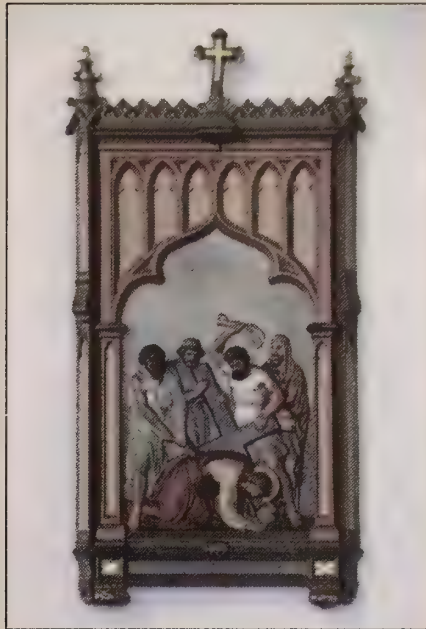


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Eighth Station



PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

ST. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME
St. Benedict Church, Greensboro

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM
Our Lady of Mercy Church,
Winston-Salem

Eleventh Station

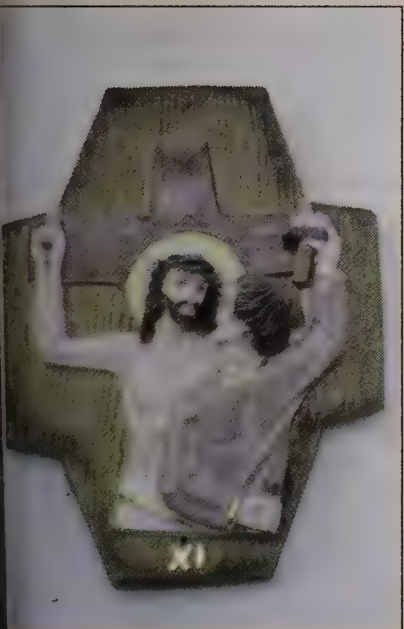


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Twelfth Station



PHOTO BY MARY WORTHINGTON

Thirteenth Station



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Fourteenth Station

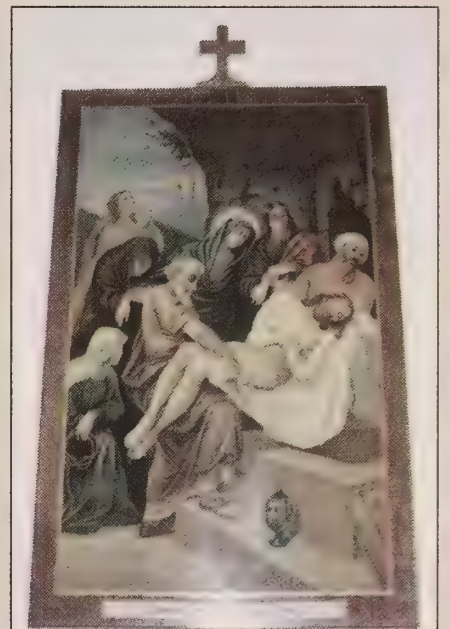


PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
St. Therese Church, Mooresville

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHER
Holy Angels Church, Mount Airy

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Separated by centuries, two women saints exhibit courage, grace

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Centuries separate St. Joan of Arc and St. Edith Stein. And the women who wrote about them are different — Mary Gordon, a novelist, and Dianne Marie Traflet, a professor.

However, the authors both provide incredibly compelling works about the warrior saint and philosopher nun that strike similar chords with the reader.

And as one reads about the horrific yet courageous deaths suffered by both St. Edith and St. Joan, one can see just what these two had in common — courage and grace.

In "Saint Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait," Traflet, associate dean and professor of pastoral theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., offers a wonderful insight into the mind and life of St. Edith.

Her scholarship glistens in this work as she quotes directly from many of St. Edith's writings and from those who knew this 20th-century saint.

Much has been written about St. Edith, a Jewish woman who converted, became a Carmelite nun, and died in a concentration camp.

What makes this book different is Traflet's focus on the spiritual life of a woman who, during several years of her life, rejected all religion.

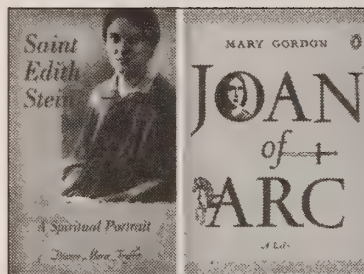
The book focuses on St. Edith's relation to the Eucharist, Mary and the cross.

Traflet writes with a clear style that is not bogged down in academic jargon. She also brings this saint to life and shows the anxious moments, the fears and the worries that were part of St. Edith's spiritual process.

The author shows great compassion and almost a tenderness when describing how difficult it must have been for St. Edith to choose Catholicism and religious life in light of the strong opposition of her mother.

The book itself is an interesting biography. However, it also holds lessons for anyone intent on a better spiritual life.

For example, Traflet writes: "An interior life cultivated by quiet stillness



prepares souls to surrender their lives to God and later to venture into the chaotic noise of society, remaining calm and focused."

Those words show St. Edith's journey but they also invite the reader to make a journey of his or her own.

In "Joan of Arc: A Life," one is immediately drawn into the book through Gordon's beautiful writing.

A professor of English at Barnard College in New York and an accomplished novelist, Gordon takes on a difficult subject here.

She notes immediately in the acknowledgments page that there are 20,000 books about St. Joan of Arc in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. One might ask, what more can be said?

Gordon finds a new angle to approach the life of this warrior saint.

She states that the book is a biographical meditation. In it she focuses on the sheer audacity of the saint and the wonderful example she offers to those who follow a unique and special life.

Gordon writes that St. Joan was "a girl who came from nowhere, supported an equivocal cause, triumphed for a few months only, failed as a soldier, saw visions ... died in agony, a saint whom the church refused canonization for 500 years, yet who stands in our imagination for the single-minded triumph of the she — and it must be a she — who feared nothing (and who) knew herself right and fully able and the chosen of the Lord."

Gordon gives the readers beautiful words, a fascinating topic and the desire to live a courageous and grace-filled life where one attempts to listen to the voice of God.

Weber is a columnist and reporter with The Catholic Observer newspaper in Springfield, Mass.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 12, 2009

April 12, Easter Sunday

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: John 20:1-9

Easter is a time to celebrate life

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A proverb attributed to the late president Abraham Lincoln asserts: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Wise words, especially if one lives in a culture that is obsessed with holding death at bay. Human history is filled with the stories of persons fruitlessly attempting to prolong the years allotted to them.

Even today, countless products costing millions of dollars are marketed with the goal of preserving youthfulness and slowing down the aging process.

Even so, no one yet has found the secret of increasing his or her length of life or escaping physical death.

Easter — the feast that defines us as Christians — tells us that even with the sure progress of aging and the inevitability of our mortality, life does not end. This belief comforts many who have lost loved ones with whom they

hope to be reunited.

However, the celebration of Christ's resurrection prompts us to claim not only the promise of eternal life beyond the grave, but the fullness of life that is given here and now.

Ironically, many people who still have a pulse experience their lives as those who are already dead (just ask anyone who has suffered from severe depression). On the other hand, many people with terminal illnesses maintain that they have never been more alive.

Clearly, the way one perceives one's own life and death depends on the perspective one takes. Death, in this view, is not really something to be feared or avoided — and life is a gift to be embraced and shared as fully as possible.

This is what St. Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Colossians: "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

For the believer in Christ, the years in one's life matter less than the life in one's years. Let the celebration of life begin.

Questions:

In what ways have you tried to avoid death or measure your years? What can you do today to fully embrace the life promised in Christ's resurrection?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" (Psalm 118:17).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5-11

Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Mark 11:1-10, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday)**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday)**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Saturday (Easter Vigil)**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Mark 16:1-7.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18

Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday)**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday)**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday)**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday)**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday)**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

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Captain Bogg & Salty pirate-themed band focuses on its youngest fans

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Loren Hoskins, who plays the parts of both Captain Angus Bogg and dimwitted swab Salty in the pirate-themed band Captain Bogg & Salty, noted that four years ago the band was branching out from its base of children's shows to play more shows at taverns and the like.

"It was the same music," he said. "We just turned the amps up."

But now, two albums later, the band has decided to stick to its roots and focus on its youngest fans. That doesn't mean adults aren't welcome. They are, especially if they're parents.

"I think everything should be PG — parental guidance. I think parents should weigh in on everything," said Hoskins, a Catholic who has been leading the Oregon-based band of merrymaking musicians for 11 years.

Captain Bogg & Salty has released a new CD, "Emphatical Piratical," with the CD cover unfolding into a map of mythical Frogg Island for young listeners to explore and imagine.

Hoskins took note of the ebb and flow of the band.

"We started in '98," when according to him the band was the only group with "kids' music on a CD."

"Before we started it was all Raffi,"

a children's singer who performs solo, he added.

"Now kids can have a CD of their own music and it doesn't have to be a synthesizer; it can be a rock band," Hoskins said.

"For a couple years we were (saying), 'We're a pirate rock band,' and people would say, 'Say what?' Now there's a whole pirate culture. Those Johnny Depp ('Pirates of the Caribbean') movies came out. We shot up. We were in huge demand. We played lots of places because it was so popular," he said.

Hoskins said he was "kind of bummed that those movies took pirates away from kids and made them more adult."

"Pirates were for kids — where we're coming from," he continued. It's "just kind of a fun place to be bold and brave and dress up and say 'Yarr,'" he added.

Children are too young to be caught up in adult matters, Hoskins said.

"They don't care about pirate movies or popular trends," he added. "We got back to being everybody's favorite little secret. ... We've come to the other side of that. We were pirate before pirate was cool."

Hoskins said the pirate band is, in essence, an extension of his childhood: "When I was a kid, I would play sound-effects records. I would play a jungle sound effect and set up my room as a treasure hunt."

He parlayed that bit of whimsy



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS OWEN

Band leader Loren Hoskins (third from right) poses with the rest of the band Captain Bogg & Salty. Hoskins, a Catholic, says the pirate-themed group's main focus these days is entertaining young fans.

into a career writing commercials and jingles and doing voice-over work in the Portland area. Then came the inspiration to start a pirate band.

"Bogg & Salty got so busy I started turning things down and after six months people stop calling you," he said.

The new CD has none of the Captain Bogg & Salty sketches featured on earlier albums. But Hoskins said he is considering a CD consisting of nothing but sketches, with instrumental music and his old childhood favorite, sound effects, added to the mix.

Catholic media entrepreneur settles lawsuit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A California Catholic media entrepreneur accused of fraudulent business practices has agreed to settle a lawsuit launched by the district attorney's office in Kern County, Calif., and agreed to pay \$200,000 in restitution, penalties and fees.

Michael Galloway — president of Catholic Online, Catholic Financial Services, Your Catholic Voice and Your Catholic Voice Foundation — also agreed to drop a lawsuit he had filed against the Monastery of the Glorious Cross in Branford, Conn., as part of the March 24

stipulated settlement agreement.

Though Galloway and the Kern County District Attorney's Office have agreed to settle the lawsuit, both parties have until April 30 to make amendments before a judge signs off on it.

Though Galloway agreed to settle the civil suit and to pay restitution to individuals and Catholic nonprofit organizations claiming they are owed money, he told Catholic News Service March 30 the settlement didn't require him to admit guilt to accusations of fraud.

“★★★★★”
— Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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Cookies for a cause



COURTESY PHOTO

Troop leaders Christine Roper (left) and Linda Sim (kneeling, right) and members of Girl Scout Troop 2583 from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte are pictured in the St. Gabriel School parking lot Feb. 17. The Troop was promoting the "Cookies for Troops" program, through which participants can purchase boxes of Girl Scout cookies to be sent to U.S. military personnel serving overseas.

Honoring Catholic Scouts



COURTESY PHOTO

Deacon Michael Stout (left) and Father Adrian Porras, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, stand with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who received awards that can be earned by Catholic Boy Scouts Feb. 22.

Boy Scouts Andrew Cypcar, Joey Campbell and Bryan Cypcar (back row) received the Ad Altare Dei ("to the altar of God") emblems, which recognize Boy Scouts who have completed service to the church.

Cub Scouts Gabriel Murphy, Logan Murphy and Alexander Puzerewski (front row) all received the Light of Christ emblems, which recognizes Cub Scouts who have completed the program's religious activity book; Alexander also received the Parvuli Dei ("Children of God") emblem for completing that program's requirements.

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Sharing a Seder



COURTESY PHOTO

Youth group members from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte demonstrate a Seder meal March 15 for children preparing for the sacrament of confirmation.

The Seder is a special ritual during the Jewish festival of Passover, a holiday commemorating Jewish deliverance from Egyptian bondage and the time of the barley season.

Many Catholics participate in a Seder during the season of Lent.

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APRIL 24-25: CHRISTOPHER WEST PRESENTS AN EXCITING INTRO TO JOHN PAUL II's "THEOLOGY OF THE BODY"



In the words of Pope John Paul II, "if we live according to the true meaning of our sexuality, we fulfill the very meaning of our being and existence." Many think they understand what the Church teaches about the body and the relationship between man and woman. However, the deeper reasons (the why of these teachings) are not well understood. The human body is meant to be a sign of God's own life and love in the world. Join Christopher West for a thought-provoking presentation that will enrich your understanding of human sexuality and the spiritual power it contains.

WHERE:

Wheeler Center (Belmont Abbey College's Athletics Facility)

WHEN:

Friday, April 24

Registration: 5:15pm-6:45pm

Seminar: 7:00pm-9:30pm

Saturday, April 25

Registration: 8:00am-9:15am

Seminar: 9:30am-5:30pm

COST:

Individual: \$35.00; Couples: \$60.00; College Students: \$20.00. **Price includes:** a copy of *The Gift Series: An Introduction to John Paul II's "Theology of the Body"* and a boxed lunch on Saturday.

Please register online at: alumni.belmontabbeycollege.edu/ChristopherWest

For More Information: Contact Jillian Maisano (JillianMaisano@bac.edu or 704.461.6869)

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Don't further research at cost of human lives

I applaud and thank Father Timothy Reid for his guest column on embryonic stem cell research ("The responsibility to fight injustice: Taking innocent life, even in its most nascent stages, is always intrinsically evil," March 20). Besides being prescient, the column was succinct and informative.

We should not allow the destruction of innocent human life by experimentation because it is immoral and unethical. Are we repeating the Nazi era during which (German SS physician) Josef Mengele experimented on human beings to further his research?

The Nuremberg trials after World War II convicted Mengele of horrific crimes against humanity. And after the furor was over the cry went up: "Never again!" How soon we forget. May God help us through the current darkness.

— Don Millard
Charlotte

Notre Dame doesn't understand, respect church teaching

(Regarding "Despite criticism, Notre Dame firm on Obama as commencement speaker," March 27)

I am disappointed but not surprised at Notre Dame's selection of President Barack Obama as commencement speaker. Like too many Catholic institutions, this university seeks validation from the secular sector at the expense of true Catholic teaching.

Obama is the point person of the secular sector's culture of death. True to his commitment to the abortion-on-demand people, among his first actions as president he attacked the fragile political structure of the pro-life movement by dismantling federal prohibitions against funding foreign abortion support.

Notre Dame president Holy Cross Father John Jenkins' denial notwithstanding, his selection of Obama signals an acceptance — or at least a toleration — by the university of Obama's positions. And the university's claim that most students are pleased with this choice seems to indicate that either the student body rejects Catholic teaching or they don't understand it.

Either way, I see a fundamental failure of some Catholic educators, priests and bishops in guiding and shepherding the faithful. It is apparent to me that the "Fighting Irish" are not fighting for the unborn. Notre Dame is indeed "Notre Shame."

— Ronald Haley
Cornelius

Letters to the Editor

Health care workers' conscience rights imperative for all

(Regarding "Conscience matters: N.C. bishops call for help in defending health care workers' rights," March 27)

It is my constitutional right to practice my Roman Catholic religion without harassment from the government or any other entity in this country. This is what our Founding Fathers decided upon.

If I must go against my conscience, which is intimately connected to my Catholic faith, then I will be denied the practice of my religion and my constitutional rights will be violated.

When I received my medical degree, it was known that I am a Catholic physician. Any determination that does not let me practice medicine in a Catholic moral manner is against my freedom to practice my religion under the U.S. Constitution.

If I must surrender my medical license due to being a conscientious objector, the rural area in which I practice medicine will be underserved.

— Dr. Robert Moreland
Murphy

Magliano misinterprets greed, solutions

I am amazed that Tony Magliano would be so presumptuous as to assume he knows what Jesus would do ("During Lent: What would Jesus do? Christ calls us to aim higher, follow moral high road," March 20).

Magliano makes a blanket condemnation of what he labels as "greed." However, the drive to maximize profits is part of the strength of U.S. capitalism and it benefits many. The moral issue is not the striving for excellence but how one uses the resulting profits.

I question the interpretation of Jesus' admonition to the rich man to "sell what you have and give to the poor." This could be more about not making riches your god.

Rather than giving everything to the poor, a savvy entrepreneur might benefit the poor more by keeping and investing his riches and giving the profits to the poor.

— Jack James
Vilas

Jump-starting a ragged prayer life

Retreats help keep us alert for Christ's arrival

When Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, he asks his friends if they would "watch this hour with me." Every year we see his disciples, drowsy from the late hour and the wine they shared at the last meal, drift off to sleep as Jesus faces his loneliest moments.

In the garden, Jesus is at his most human, a brilliant man who realizes what will happen to him in Jerusalem, and a sensitive man, full of fear, real agony over the suffering he knows is coming his way.

At our parish, we offer eucharistic adoration after the Holy Thursday service, and as the choir softly sings, "Wait with me, watch with me," many people gather to wait and watch long after the liturgy is over. People are genuinely touched by this Jesus who endures this painful expectation bereft of loyalty.

This is prayer at its most basic — the desire to wait and watch with Jesus, just to be with him because we love him. That desire in itself is a prayer.

If we could discipline ourselves to cultivate this desire each day by dedicating even 10 minutes to waiting and watching, how much better our lives would be.

In an effort to improve my own distracted and undisciplined prayer life, I made a four-day retreat this Lent at our local Holy Spirit Center. It is on the hillside, with a chapel that overlooks the city and the ocean, and with a view of the mountains behind it climbing toward the sky.

Moose sometimes have to be shooed away from the conference room door, and on this March weekend snow was still piled high against the first-floor windows.

The retreat leaders were two elderly and very holy Jesuits, both of them over 80, with more than 100 years of ministry between them. I was reminded of something the instructor of a Christian anthropology course told our class: "The Holy Spirit only moves forward."

These two priests were living examples of that. You might find an

For the Journey

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octogenarian stuck in the past, rooted to some kind of nostalgia for a church that did things differently in his prime.

But not these two. They were alive in the moving and organic Spirit of God.

When one of them, a biblical scholar, told us the Hebrew word "ruah" (meaning "breath" or "wind") that we use for Spirit is actually a feminine word, he proceeded to call the Spirit "she." No political correctness there, just the scholarly acquiescence to nuances our church sometimes forgets to acknowledge.

The best part of the retreat was silence — that thing with which we moderns are so unfamiliar. No computers, no checking e-mail, no catching a phone call or a text. No idle chat at meals.

For a while, we stopped skimming the surface of our lives.

My retreat jump-started my ragged prayer life. It reminded me that I can read all the spiritual writing I want, but if I do not commit to the time of silence — waiting and watching — I am not committed to prayer.

I know how tough it is to get away for a retreat. A houseful of little kids makes it difficult. Teenagers with curfews and full schedules make it tougher. It can be expensive. With so many demands on our lives, sometimes just the desire to flop on the couch for the weekend is overwhelming.

But after my long weekend, I know that I really, really needed this. If I'm going to be awake to watch and wait with Christ, I've got to get a boost along the way.

No simple solutions to fixing Third World woes

In response to Tony Magliano's "During Lent: What would Jesus do?" (March 20), I would like to comment on the moral and ethical aspects of buying low-cost products (and taking advantage of desperately-poor workers) from Third World countries.

Labor rates are based on the availability of labor versus jobs. Third World countries have an abundance of manual labor, but jobs using that labor are scarce — similar to the United States in the 1930s.

There is little a U.S. company can do to affect labor rates in a country other than become a charity paying over the

going rate for labor. Ironically this is not good for the labor force of the country because as the product price increases, competitiveness of the country decreases. Jobs move to lower-cost labor, with workers losing even the low paying jobs.

We have seen this in the United States as manufacturing jobs move to machines or to lower labor-cost countries and our workers become unemployed.

The moral question a business must answer when considering the price paid for a product is: Will this purchase improve the living standard of the workers and allow us to stay in business? Forcing the closing of a low-wage operation is not the answer to solving this difficult problem. The only exportable product many countries have is low-cost labor.

— Allyn Aldrich
Asheville

The war of the words

Various labels don't change facts when it comes to abortion

There is a war of words against the unborn, and I thought I was pro-life until I heard the "news."

It's amazing how much meaning can be put into a word. In the grand exchange of information, even words often can be more than they seem.

For instance, there is a certain bias in words such as "pro-choice," "anti-abortion" and "anti-choice." Anti-choice — it sounds so mean! I wouldn't want to share my lunch with someone who was "anti-choice." Would you?

But the meaning changes when the word "choice" is applied to, say, school tuition and school choices. Suddenly the exalted word of "choice" has no relevance to the discussion.

According to what I have heard in the news, the same week the "pro-life/anti-choice" march (the 36th annual March for Life) occurred in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, President Barack Obama signed some new "pro-choice" legislation (a Jan. 23 executive order reversing the Mexico City policy, a move that clears the way for the federal government to provide aid to programs that promote or perform abortions overseas).

It seems we do have some extra money lying around to spend on a war this year against unborn children in other countries. I don't see how this helps

stimulate our economy. To me it seems the money could have been better used to help pay off mortgages or shelter the poor than to help murder unborn children, but, then again, my mind has been warped by an overexposure to the word of God.

I recently received an anonymous letter from someone complaining about my homily against abortion. It said "this is America, and we have separation of church and state."

I didn't realize that opposing the killing of unborn children was equivalent to establishing a religious state.

My understanding is that there are members of the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Eastern and Protestant religions — as well as some atheists — who are opposed to abortion. So which religion would we be establishing by stopping abortion? I'm not opposed to the separation of church and state; I want separation of murder and state.

Some people say a woman has a "right" to do what she wants with her own body. As far as I know, a woman's body normally does not have two heartbeats, two brains, four eyes, four hands and four feet.

The heartbeat in the womb starts around 21 days after conception. So when abortion stops a beating heart, is it

Guest Column

FATHER
HERBERT
BURKE

GUEST COLUMNIST

not a human heart?

Kind Herod was the politician in charge of Jesus' town of Bethlehem when Christ was born. Herod seems to be a man who would have had no problem with abortion. Scripture says he "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under" (Matthew 2:16).

In Revelation, it says "the dragon stood before the woman (Mary) about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child (Jesus) destined to rule all the nations" (Rev. 12:4,5).

It looks like Herod and the dragon were on the same team, but don't let this trouble you — the stories are only words, and we know words can't really hurt anyone, right?

After all, what kind of weapon is a word? And, who could go to war with words?

Certainly not the secular news media. Besides, God's pen is mightier than man's word.

Father Burke is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City.

In midst of conflict, church can bring peace, pope says at audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Working in areas of conflict and misery, the church has an important duty to be an instrument of peace and reconciliation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

But countries also must recognize the right of their citizens to share in their nation's wealth if there is to be truly lasting peace, he added.

The pope used his April 1 general audience in St. Peter's Square to review his March 17-23 visit to Cameroon and Angola. Even though his first papal trip to the African continent was limited to two nations, the pope said he "ideally wanted to embrace all of the people of Africa and bless them in the name of the Lord."

Today, the church is accompanying a new Africa, which is working "to strengthen its political independence and national identity in a globalized world," he said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I wish to thank Almighty God for the many blessings which accompanied my first apostolic visit to Africa. I am deeply grateful to the leaders, local authorities and bishops for the warm and enthusiastic welcome they extended to me.

My stay began in Cameroon, where I had the pleasure of meeting various Catholic groups as well as representatives of the Muslim community. I was struck by the profound religious spirit of this nation and the desire of its citizens to live and work together in peace.

My journey then took me to Angola, a country that continues to strive for reconciliation and reconstruction after a long civil war. I encouraged all Angolans to contribute to these tasks, especially by forming the consciences of young people.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have met with seminarians, catechists, women's groups, young people and many others during my sojourn in that country. A particularly significant moment of my visit was the presentation of the "instrumentum laboris" for the second special assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops.

As the church prepares for this important meeting dedicated to the theme "The Church in Africa in Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace," I ask you all to join me in praying that it will bear abundant fruit among the beloved people of this great continent.

'Love is patient, love is kind'

Violence is never OK in a real, loving relationship

I'll say it in the most direct way possible: Violence is never, ever, ever OK in a real, loving relationship.

On Feb. 8, the 21-year-old pop singer Rihanna — born Robyn Rihanna Fenty — was allegedly beaten by her boyfriend, hip-hop singer Chris Brown, 19. Pictures leaked onto the Internet a few days later show the Barbadian singer, model and former beauty queen with a bruised face, a blackened eye and a bloodied lip.

A mid-February survey by the Boston Public Health Commission found that 49 percent of the 200 Boston teens surveyed said that Rihanna herself was responsible for the beating, and that she'd done something to deserve it.

Nobody deserves to be treated like that — and somehow, teens just aren't getting that message. But the commercial industry did. Many of Brown's ads were suspended, his music was withdrawn from multiple radio stations; he is scheduled for arraignment in April.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, one in three high school students will be involved in an abusive relationship, and 10 percent of girls ages 14 to 17 say they know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

Many mistakenly consider that this is what happens in a normal relationship.

Abuse in relationships centers on power and control. But in a true, loving relationship, partners will share power, making decisions that are reflective of honesty, responsibility, trust and support.

In an abusive relationship, though, the abuser will be focused on blame, possessiveness, jealousy and domination.

The first sign of abuse — before that slap across the face — is often extreme jealousy, something that might seem "romantic" at first but soon proves dangerous.

Abusers control the ground rules of the relationship, not letting the other partner have any say. They might get angry when a partner sees or keeps friends outside of the relationship. The abuser often talks down to or puts down a partner before the hitting starts.

Abusers' victims often think they can do nothing to change the situation. But they can! They should speak to a trusted adult, a helpline or a counselor instead of remaining silent.

In a media-saturated world that seems focused on sex and passive, Bella Swan-esque "love at first sight," the most important thing teens can learn about a good relationship is from 1 Corinthians: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous ... it is not

Coming of Age

KAREN OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST



rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury."

Real love is selfless and focuses on compassion.

If what you're experiencing has any symptoms of severe jealousy or abuse, it isn't love and it isn't romantic — even if it feels like it, even if the butterflies are fluttering in your stomach, and even if your boyfriend or girlfriend swears an offense will never be committed again.

Statistics say it will.

When it was reported that Rihanna accepted Brown's apology, abuse experts became worried because abusers rarely stop the abuse simply because they've apologized. In fact, most apologies from abusers — through words, flowers, begging or assurances — are just power plays to get their victim under their control once more.

I fear for Rihanna and the thousands of girls out there who are just like her.

Don't be part of the 49 percent who think violence is just part of the deal.

It's not.

Stand up for your friends; stand up for real love.

Keeping the faith amid the flood



CNS PHOTO BY ERIC MILLER, REUTERS

Men stand near a dike around St. Benedict Church in Horace, N.D., March 29. The church was protected from Red River floodwaters by an earthen dike built after a flood in 1997.

North Dakota's receding Red River a welcome sight to seminary rector

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — When North Dakota's Red River crested at 40.8 feet instead of an expected 42 feet, Msgr. Gregory Schlesselmann, rector of Cardinal Muench Seminary in Fargo, N.D., breathed a sigh of relief.

But he was hardly about to sit back and relax.

The rector of the seminary, adjacent to the Red River, told Catholic News Service March 30, "We're holding steady at this point, but we're not there yet."

He said the river was gradually receding, but a blizzard was expected to dump 8 to 14 inches of snow on the region by the next day.

"It's a wait-and-see kind of thing," he added, referring to how the dikes would hold out and if the latest batch of snow would increase the river's water level when it melted later in the week.

The wait-and-see approach was similar to what Fargo residents experienced in the days prior to the expected river crest, but they also were frantically busy building walls with sandbags.

Although the river's crest was lower than anticipated, there was still plenty of water at the edge of Fargo and in neighboring Moorhead, Minn., on the river's opposite side.

The flood crest topped the record level set in 1897, when the Red River reached 40.1 feet at Fargo. The river approached that level in 1997 when it reached 39.6 feet.

Fargo and Moorhead residents, helped out by the Army Corps of Engineers, did all they could to keep the Red River from overflowing.

By March 27, the Army Corps of Engineers had finished shoring up a pre-existing dike next to the seminary to about 45 feet. Since then, police officers and members of the National Guard have been constantly patrolling it.

The dike was not only protecting seminary property, but the north side of Fargo.

The college seminary was partially evacuated March 27. Seminarians who remained on the property were pumping water about three times a day; the water resulted from snow melting on the grounds.

Before the expected river rise they were busy helping neighbors fill sandbags and build dikes, assisting at the volunteer call center and helping nursing-home patients move to other locations.

Seven of the seminarians took up temporary residence with Fargo Bishop Samuel J. Aquila while others stayed at nearby parishes. During the weekend of anticipated flooding, Bishop Aquila went to several homes in the Fargo Diocese to bless the sandbag dikes and pray for the town's residents.

Catholic Charities USA set up counseling centers to help Fargo residents cope with the stress of potential floods.

Two deaths and 50 injuries were reported in flood-related incidents in the area. The injured included victims of car wrecks caused by flooded roads.

The Fargo residents who prepared for the worst also have been thanking God for their blessings, said Msgr. Schlesselmann.

At the seminary, those who stayed on the property continued with their normal prayer schedule. The group was joined Sunday by a non-Catholic neighbor who had been the unofficial "neighborhood captain" in the days leading up to the expected flood.

The neighbor, joined by his wife for prayer at the seminary, said his own church services had been canceled and he wanted to join the priests and seminarians to thank God for the town's safety.

Msgr. Schlesselmann said it will take a few weeks before residents can be sure they are past the crisis.

In the meantime, the priest, who has urged people to pray for the intercession of St. Joseph, is leaving two St. Joseph statues in their new location — at the windows overlooking the river — just to keep watch.

N.D. Bishop praises schools, parishes for flood preparations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Days before the predicted rise of North Dakota's Red River, Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo said he was already impressed by how Catholics in the diocese were helping people prepare for expected flooding.

When Fargo's Veteran Affairs Medical Center evacuated March 24, the Cathedral of St. Mary of Fargo provided vans to take patients to their temporary quarters in St. Paul, Minn. Students from Fargo's diocesan Catholic schools were among teams of volunteers who spent days sandbagging around the city to prevent flood damage, and Fargo's Catholic Charities employees were preparing for potential food and shelter needs.

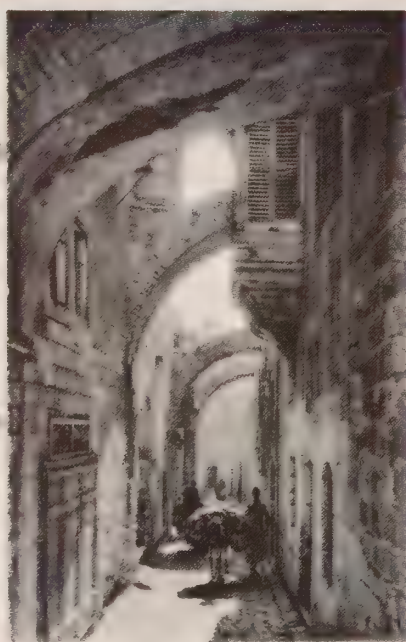
"There is a tremendous spirit among the people here," he said, adding the "people are watching out for one another" even while waiting to see how extensive the flood damage could be.

"The unknown is always unsettling, but at same time there is a very real preparedness among the people and the city has done a great job in reaching out to people," he said.

After all the preparations were finished, he noted that the "most important thing of course is prayers and asking for God's protection at this time."

During the week, the bishop had visited sites where residents were sandbagging to let them know the diocese would help in any way it could.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Why be Catholic?;
transcending self-interest;
science and morality of life

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'Diversity is the tie'

Two Catholic
converts share
different perspectives
on faith journeys

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: This is the fifth
and final story in a series of
conversion stories.

BELMONT — At Queen
of the Apostles Church in
Belmont, 19 people will enter
into full communion with the
Catholic Church at the Easter
Vigil April 11.

Their journeys are different,
but their goal is the same.

Two of those converts
share their experiences and

See CONVERTS, page 6

Raising concerns

Catholic leaders
respond to growing
number of births to
unwed mothers in U.S.

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A
recent federal report showing
a rise in U.S. births in 2007
also revealed another statistic:
40 percent of the births were to
unwed mothers.

That statistic did not
go unnoticed, especially by
Catholic leaders who stress
that the church's teaching
emphasizes the important link

See BIRTHS, page 12

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SCALA, ART RESOURCE

The Resurrection is depicted in this Renaissance fresco from the Chapel of St. Sebastian in Lanslevillard, France. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is April 12 in the Latin rite this year. Read Pope Benedict XVI's Easter message on page 15.

See POPE, page 13

Bishop calls on priests to remember ordinations

Priests renew vows of service at
annual chrism Mass

OILS BLESSED FOR USE
THROUGHOUT DIOCESE

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "We can
never forget the day of our
ordination," said Bishop Peter
J. Jugis to priests from around
the Diocese of Charlotte at the
annual chrism Mass.

During ordination, "we
received a grace which changed
us forever," Bishop Jugis said
during his homily at St. Patrick
Cathedral in Charlotte April 7.

The bishop expressed his
gratitude to the approximately
90 priests in attendance.
He thanked them for their

See CHRISM, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis consecrates chrism oil during a Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 7. Also pictured are (from left): Father George Kloster, Deacon James Atkinson, Father Christopher Roux, seminarian Matthew Codd and Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

'Torch of faith and hope'

Pope John Paul II
remembered on
anniversary of death

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The
heritage Pope John Paul II left to
the church, and especially to its
younger members, was a torch of
faith and hope to lead them and
the world through the darkness,
Pope Benedict XVI said.

Celebrating Mass with
young people April 2, the
fourth anniversary of the
death of Pope John Paul, Pope
Benedict said his predecessor
"was able to communicate a
strong feeling of hope founded
on faith in Jesus Christ."

"If Christ's word remains
in us, we can spread the flame
of that love that he ignited on
the earth; we can carry high
the torch of faith and hope,"
the pope told the young people
who were preparing for the

Knightly service

Knights of Columbus host
dinners to raise funds

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Culture Watch

Book about friendship with
pope; 'Rosary Tapes'

| PAGES 10-11

Picking up the pieces

Pope plans to visit victims
of Italian earthquake

| PAGE 16

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAITH OF A LIFETIME



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE CRENSHAW, EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC

Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa, Okla., greets 95-year-old Marian E. Baker at a March 19 luncheon of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in Tulsa. She has been a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Poteau, Okla., for 74 of her 95 years, and was honored during the luncheon as a Woman of Achievement in the Diocese of Tulsa.

For 74 of her 95 years, Oklahoman has been stalwart of rural parish

TULSA, Okla. (CNS) — There were just seven Catholics when Marian E. Baker began attending Immaculate Conception Church in Poteau, located in a small rural area of southeastern Oklahoma.

A parishioner there for 74 of her 95 years and known as the parish "matriarch," she was honored as a Woman of Achievement in the Diocese of Tulsa.

"Congratulations! God bless you," Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa told Baker when she came forward to accept her commendation at a recent Diocesan Council of Catholic Women luncheon.

Baker moved to Poteau in 1935 with her late husband, Wilbur, and their 1-year-old son, Kermit, now a physician who accompanied her to the luncheon. She has five grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Baker quickly started wearing many hats. She became the parish organist — playing for all Sunday Masses, weddings and funerals. In addition, Baker became the choir director and for many years organized the children's choir.

In addition, she became bookkeeper and treasurer for her church and two others. For 50 years she counted collections, made bank deposits and paid bills by hand — until she learned to use a computer.

Over the years Baker helped purchase, prepare and serve the food for all the funeral dinners. During her 74 years of parish service, she has worked with 18 different priests who were fresh out of the seminary.

At age 86, Baker survived colon cancer, getting through surgery and chemotherapy. She slowed down, and at 92 she decided it was time to resign as bookkeeper and treasurer.

Iowa bishops say allowing gay marriage 'will grievously harm families'

AVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Iowa's Catholic bishops vigorously disagreed with the Iowa Supreme Court's unanimous decision April 3 that strikes down state law defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

"This decision rejects the wisdom of thousands of years of human history. It implements a novel understanding of marriage, which will grievously harm families and children," the bishops said in a statement prepared by the Iowa Catholic Conference.

The bishops vowed to continue to protect and promote marriage as a union between a man and a woman and asked Catholics and other citizens of Iowa to call for a constitutional amendment on marriage.

With the high court's ruling, Iowa becomes the third state in the nation to recognize marriages for gay and lesbian couples, after Massachusetts and Connecticut.

In its 7-0 decision, the court in Des

Moines ruled that "limiting civil marriage to a union between a man and a woman violates the Iowa Constitution." The decision further allows gay and lesbian couples full access to the institution of civil marriage.

The ruling resolves an action brought by six same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in Polk County because of the 1998 Defense of Marriage Act that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Iowa's bishops said they "uphold the right of all people to be treated with respect and live in peace. This right, like the right to enter into a permanent, monogamous marriage of one man and one woman, derives directly from the intrinsic dignity of the human person."

Signing the statement were Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque and Bishops R. Walker Nickless of Sioux City, Martin J. Amos of Davenport and Richard E. Pates of Des Moines.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — The dedication of the Appalachian State University campus ministry gathering space in honor of Sister Ann Thomas Griffin will take place April 29 at 6 p.m. All who remember Sister Griffin from her time at St. Elizabeth Church and as Catholic campus minister to Appalachian State are invited to join the Catholic community in Boone as we celebrate her life of service. Dinner will be served. If you have personal memories or experiences with Sister Griffin, or for more information, contact Erin Leonard at asuccm@yahoo.com or (828) 264-7087.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes are now accepting applications for the Gene Marie Alfaro Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is pursuing a career in nursing or other health-related fields. If interested, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624. To be considered, applications must be received by April 14.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life invites those in their 20s and 30s to *Theology on Tap*, "Lent: 40 Days in the Desert." This series will be held once a month for four months at Mario's Pizza/John's Place, 3016 Weddington Rd., Suite 100 and will explore

the various events associated with the Lenten season. On April 16, Chris Lynch will present the topic "The Resurrection and Easter Sunday." Come for food and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to participate in the celebration of *Divine Mercy Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19. The celebration will include a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered prior to the celebration. Individuals should check the times offered in their respective parishes.

CHARLOTTE — A celebration of *Divine Mercy* will take place at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., April 19 at 3 p.m. The service will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reading of the Gospel, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and other prayers. For more information, contact Paul Deer at (704) 577-3496.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., April 15 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish activity center. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088, ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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APRIL 10, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 23

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican commends Buddhist community's witness to a spirit of poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world of unbridled consumerism and materialism, Christians can find inspiration in the Buddhist witness of happiness in nonattachment to material goods, said the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

In a message for the feast of Vesakh, a commemoration of the major events in the life of the Buddha, the Vatican office urged Christians and Buddhists to work together to contribute to the well-being of the world community. The Vatican released the message April 3 as many Buddhist communities were preparing to celebrate Vesakh May 2.

The message said Christian and Buddhist communities are aware of the challenges of "the ever more extensive phenomenon of poverty in its various forms" and "the unbridled pursuit of material possessions and the pervasive shadow of consumerism."

While very different, there are two

types of poverty, the message said.

One is a poverty that can be chosen in the form of emptying oneself in order to listen to and be more open to God and other people, the message said.

The other kind of poverty is a material deprivation that "prevents people and families from living as befits their dignity," it said. God does not wish for this latter form of poverty, which also offends justice and equality, and threatens peaceful co-existence, it said.

The Catholic community wishes to thank its Buddhist friends "for your inspiring witness of nonattachment and contentment," said the message.

Buddhist monks, nuns and lay faithful freely embrace a poverty "that spiritually nourishes the human heart, substantially enriching life with a deeper insight into the meaning of existence, and sustaining commitment to promoting the good will of the whole human community," it said.

Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Classes are free, but registration is required. Call for the schedule as classes will not be held on certain dates. For more information, call Nettie Watkins at the Allegro Foundation (704) 412-5229 or e-mail pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in Room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamlik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

CHARLOTTE — A community shredding event will be held at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., April 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Have your personal and confidential documents shredded and recycled. Charlotte Catholic High School families and members of the community are encouraged to bring their documents to the school where PROSHRED Security will destroy them in one of their mobile shredding trucks while you watch. Contact David Wright at Proshred at (704) 940 5617 or Cissy Bevington at Charlotte Catholic High School (704) 543-1127.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., has restarted its re-employment support group. The next meeting will be April 16 at 7:30 in Room 9 of the Parish Life Center. For more information, call Colleen at the church office (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is offering a 6-week introductory class on brain disorders to be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The classes are designed to give parents and caregivers coping skills as well as tools they may use for problem solving and crisis preparation. Classes begin April 21 and will be held every Tuesday for six weeks from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Class are free, but registration is required. For more information, call

Jan Kretlow at (336) 299-8859.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

BRYSON CITY — Guest speaker Father Robert Rivers, a member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, will present *reflections on the writing and the mission of St. Paul* at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., April 27. The presentation begins with Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck supper; the program begins around 5:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish. For more information, call the church office at (828) 497-9755.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Father Kurt Fohn, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, will share his experience as husband, father and priest in a presentation addressing the challenges facing the Catholic family today to be held in the Bishop Begley Parish Center of St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., April 28 at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Mary Beth Young at yrmariybeth@aol.com, or call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmooore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Knights Templar may have secretly held shroud, Vatican expert says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican researcher has found evidence that the Knights Templar, the medieval crusading order, held secret custody of the Shroud of Turin during the 13th and 14th centuries.

The shroud, which bears the image of a man and is believed by many to have been the burial cloth of Jesus, was probably used in a secret Templar ritual to underline Christ's humanity in the face of popular heresies of the time, the expert said.

The researcher, Barbara Frale, made the comments in an article published April 5 by the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

The article anticipated evidence the author presents in an upcoming book on the Templars and the shroud.

Frale, who works in the Vatican Secret Archives, said documents that came to light during research on the 14th-century trial of the Templars contained a description of a Templar initiation ceremony.

The document recounts how a Templar leader, after guiding a young initiate into a hidden room, "showed him a long linen cloth that bore the impressed figure of a man, and ordered him to worship it, kissing the feet three

times," Frale said.

The idea that the Knights Templar were secret custodians of the shroud was put forward by British historian Ian Wilson in 1978. Frale said the account of the initiation ceremony, along with a number of other pieces of evidence, supports that theory.

The shroud's history has long been the subject of debate. It was believed by some to have been in Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey, when the city was sacked during the crusades in 1204.

It turned up for public display in France in 1357, and today is kept in the cathedral of Turin, Italy.

The cloth's image, according to some experts, corresponds with that of a man who was scourged and crucified.

Frale said the Knights Templar may have kept the shroud secret because of papal orders of excommunication for anyone involved in looting relics from Constantinople or trafficking in them afterward.

She said the shroud's image was particularly important for the Knights Templar, as an "antidote" to the heresies that had arisen — especially those that affirmed that Christ was a purely spiritual being, and never really had a human body or shed human blood.

Carrying the cross



CNS PHOTO BY LIRIO DA FONSECA, REUTERS

Catholic women carry wooden crosses during a Palm Sunday procession in Dili, East Timor, April 5.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 12 (11 a.m.)
Easter Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 18 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of Confirmation; blessing of monument to the unborn
St. James Church, Hamlet

April 21 (6 p.m.)
Friends to Seminarians dinner
Graylyn International Conference Center, Winston-Salem

April 22 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Peter Church, Charlotte

CORRECTIONS

In the April 3 edition, the locations of Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville and St. Joseph of the Hill Church in Eden were incorrect in photo captions. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the errors.

TO OUR READERS

Due to the Easter holiday, The Catholic News & Herald will not publish on Friday, April 17. Our next edition will be Friday, April 24. We wish everyone a blessed and joyous Easter.

RSVPing with support, prayers



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 939 serve guests at the council's inaugural Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) spaghetti dinner and bingo at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Feb. 20.

More than 100 people attended the event that helped generate financial support for four seminarians studying for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Through the Knights' national RSVP initiative, councils, assemblies and Squires circles "adopt" one or more seminarians and provide them with moral support, financial assistance for tuition, books, car insurance and maintenance, emergency expenditures, travel money and other living expenses.

For the least among us



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Knights of Columbus work the kitchen during a spaghetti dinner at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem March 21. At the event, four Knights councils — Council 8509 of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville and Council 2829 of St. Leo the Great Church, Council 9499 of Holy Family Church and Council 10504 of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem — distributed funds raised through their Operation L.A.M.B. campaigns to 28 local charities.

More than 100 people attended the dinner.

Pictured are (from left) Joel McConnel, Alexander Smith, Dave Shemelya, Bruce McKenna and B.J. Smith.

Raising the roof



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 12481 are pictured in the kitchen during a fundraising fish fry dinner at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington March 27. The \$500 raised went toward a new roof for the parish hall.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization with 1.75 million members around the world.

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Priests renew vows, oils blessed at chrism Mass

CHRISM, from page 1

dedicated service throughout the diocese and asked them to reflect on the promises they made during their ordinations.

"Our renewal of commitment to priestly service during this Mass, takes us back not only to the day of our priesthood ordination, but it also takes us back even further — to the source of our call, to Jesus, to the one who first said to us, 'Come, follow me,'" said Bishop Jugis.

"This Mass is a commitment to Christ Jesus," he said.

During the chrism Mass, the priests recommit themselves to their vocational ministry.

The chrism Mass is one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses, celebrated in most Catholic dioceses on Holy Thursday. If celebration of the Mass is not possible on Holy Thursday, it may be celebrated earlier in the week, as it is in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During the Mass, the bishop blesses the oils to be used in administering the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Bishop Jugis celebrated the Mass along with concelebrants Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar; Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; and other clergy of the diocese.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin was in attendance and Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, served as master of ceremonies.

Permanent deacons assisted and seminarians of the diocese served as altar servers.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of their dedication as faithful ministers of Christ.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priests and deacons gather around Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the eucharistic prayer at the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 7.

Following the liturgy of the Eucharist, Bishop Jugis blessed the three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests return to their parishes, rededicated in spiritual union with the people of the diocese.

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE

For more photographs of the chrism Mass, visit the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

The sacramental use of oil is rooted in the Old Testament practice of anointing kings. The Hebrew word *Mashiach*, or "Messiah," means, "anointed one." Its New Testament Greek equivalent is *Christos*, or "Christ." As Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit, so are Christians anointed with the same spirit through the use of holy oils.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours fragrant balsam into a vessel of olive oil during the annual chrism Mass celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 7. Once blended and blessed, the chrism — signifying abundant grace and spiritual strength — is used during the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders. Also pictured is Deacon Benjamin Roberts and seminarian Matthew Codd.



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FROM THE COVER

Converts share different perspectives on journey

CONVERTS, from page 1

the different circumstances that brought them to this point.

The searcher

For a long time, David Viola was a man on a mission.

He spent years experimenting with different fundamentalist and non-denominational religions. But he couldn't find what he was looking for.

"I wanted a venue where I could properly worship the Lord with a body of believers who were like-minded," Viola said.

He was looking for a faith that was rooted in tradition.

"The Baptists had no traditions," said Viola. "The Anglicans and Lutherans got away from tradition."

Then he found a faith that was rooted in history.

"The Catholic Church has held together for 2,000 years," he said. "Tradition helps keep the church together."

Growing up a fundamentalist, Viola was taught that "everything the Catholics believe is dead wrong."

"I had to do a lot of praying before I could even consider coming into the Catholic Church," he said.

But when he and his wife, Laura, who also is entering the church at Easter, first stepped into the Abbey Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Belmont, they knew they were finally home.

"As soon as we walked in we knew that was where we belonged," Viola said.

"The reality of the Eucharist was important for them," said Father Cancro, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church. "For them that was really a starting point in terms of their own exploration of Catholicism."

The Violas enrolled in Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) at Queen of the Apostles Church.

For David Viola, the decision to convert was reinforced during the Rite of Election.

"As soon as I put my name in the

"Everything that I see in the Catholic Church points to Christ."

— David Viola

book, I just knew that this was the thing to do," he said.

The Rite of Election marks the beginning of the candidates' and catechumens' final, and most intense, period of preparation.

Catechumens, people not yet baptized, are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and first Communion. Candidates, who are already baptized Christians, will enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Communion.

"Everything that I see in the Catholic Church points to Christ," said Viola. "The tradition and the Word and the way they are combined — it just creates worship."

The scholar

For Dr. Beth Kreitzer, the journey to Catholicism was one of intellectual discovery.

A professor at Belmont Abbey College, Kreitzer earned a doctorate in religion in the field of Lutheran studies.

"To make the switch at this stage of my life is actually a bit of a challenge in some ways," said Kreitzer, who studied the Protestant Reformation and did her dissertation on Martin Luther.

When she first started considering

a conversion, she thought about the impact it would have on her studies and her career.

"It was something that I've had to keep in mind," she said.

Fortunately, she teaches at a Catholic college.

At Belmont Abbey "they won't mind if I'm Catholic," she joked.

Kreitzer was initially drawn to Catholicism because she wanted to practice the same religion as her family.

Her husband is Catholic and their three children were all baptized in the Catholic Church.

"For me it was more of a feeling that I wanted to be all together in one church with my family," she said.

With such an extensive background in religion, Kreitzer has approached her conversion on a scholarly level.

"I had to try to discern whether I could, in good conscience, become a Catholic and accept the things that are different from the tradition in which I was raised," she said.

"I think I'm looking for something different than a lot of people are. I'm trying to figure out theological points, more than spirituality or to gain some form of formation," she said.

"It's clear that someone like Beth is in a very different place theologically than some of the others," said Father Cancro.

"To be willing to move from her educationally-solid, theological understanding to now respond to the heart is a testament to the witness of her family and her own life of prayer,"

he said.

Like Viola, Kreitzer also appreciates the history and traditions of the Catholic Church, particularly the devotion to the saints.

"I think one of the things that I appreciate about the Catholic tradition as opposed to the Protestant tradition is the appreciation and accommodation to the saints," said Kreitzer.

"It really adds an extra dimension to religious practice," she said, and it is "something that I certainly didn't find as a Lutheran."

Common ground

"Every year I am always edified by the witness of these people who come to a point where it's clear that they have to say 'yes' to God," Father Cancro said about the candidates and catechumens.

He said he also admires their "willingness to change in a world that doesn't really accept change easily."

He appreciates the unique perspective that each individual brings to the RCIA program and he admires the respect that they have for one another.

Despite their varying religious backgrounds "they seem to accommodate each other," said Father Cancro.


"Diversity is the tie" and there is "always that notion of patience," he said. "My basic premise and the basic premise of the church is that this is the work of the Holy Spirit."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



SENIORS' SPRING FLING

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Tues., May 5 - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 22nd

Wed., May 20 - St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden
9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Closing Mass with Fr. Adrian Porras
Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 6th

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PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Those preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church and their sponsors stand during the Rite of Election at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro March 8. The service formally acknowledges those who are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil. As many as 150,000 new or returning Catholics are expected to join the U.S. Catholic Church at Easter.

'From darkness into light'

Thousands of new or returning Catholics to join church in U.S. in 2009

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As many as 150,000 new or returning Catholics are expected to join the Catholic Church in 2009 in the United States. Many of them will do so during the Easter Vigil April 11 in parishes across the country.

Only partial figures from a sample of U.S. dioceses were available so far for 2009, according to a March 31 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The numbers do not include infant baptisms, which are recorded separately.

The number of new Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte this year is not expected to be available until June. In other areas, the numbers of new or returning Catholics show growth in the church in places where it has traditionally been a minority, such as Georgia.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta estimated that 513 catechumens and 2,195 candidates will join the ranks of the archdiocese in 2009. About 1,800 of them will do so at Easter.

Catechumens, or people not yet baptized, receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and first Communion. Candidates, who are already baptized Christians, enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Communion.

"The Archdiocese of Atlanta is in a part of the country with a large non-Catholic population, and has been blessed with an authentic dynamism during recent years, which is perhaps best expressed in our annual eucharistic congress, which draws some 30,000 participants," said Father Theodore Book, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship.

"One of the many blessings that we have received from the Lord is the large number of individuals entering the church," he said in a statement.

On the opposite side of the country the Archdiocese of Seattle planned to welcome 736 catechumens and 506 candidates for a total of 1,242 new members; and the Diocese of San Diego expected to baptize 305 new members and welcome 920 other baptized Christians,

adding a total of 1,225 to its ranks.

In the mostly rural Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., the Cathedral of St. Paul could not handle all who are joining, 445 people in total, and their families for the Rite of Election.

The rites were held in three different ceremonies, two at the cathedral on the first Sunday of Lent, and another one in Huntsville, Ala., the prior Saturday. Some people came from as far as 80 miles away to participate.

The Rite of Election, usually celebrated at the beginning of Lent, marks the official countdown to initiation or admission into the church.

Baptism also will have a special significance this year for Heidi Sierras of Ceres, near Modesto, Calif., along with her family, church sponsors and parish community.

Sierras will be in a group of five people — representing different areas of the world — who will be baptized by Pope Benedict XVI April 11. The 29-year-old mother of four will represent North America.

"It's hard to put into words how I feel," Sierras told Catholic News Service in a March 2 telephone interview from her home in Ceres. "I feel honored. It's an amazing opportunity."

Around the country parishes in dioceses big and small, urban and rural, were preparing for the special Easter liturgies filled with symbolism that will lead the "neophytes," or the newly baptized, those received into full communion, their new faith community and the entire church "from darkness into light."

In 2008, according to the Official Catholic Directory, 49,415 adults were baptized and 87,363 people came into full communion with the church. In 2007, those numbers were 62,464 and 92,975, respectively.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, according to the diocesan Office of Faith Formation a total of 911 catechumens and candidates were initiated into the church in 2008. In 2007, the combined number was 914.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

The Way of the Cross



COURTESY PHOTO

Our Lady of Grace School seventh-grader Patrick Murray takes down fellow seventh-grader Patrick DePinto, portraying Jesus, from the cross during a living Way of the Cross performance at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro April 3. The school's two seventh-grade religion classes re-enacted the Way, or Stations, of the Cross during two public performances March 20 and April 3.

"The prayers are adapted to a student level to provide children with a powerful prayer service that helps them understand that each day they too share in the cross of Christ," said Principal Gary Gelo.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Stapleton leads 3-year-old preschool students in walking and praying the Way of the Cross at St. Mark Church in Huntersville March 16. The Way, or Stations, of the Cross is the devotion commemorating the final hours, or Passion, of Jesus.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Hunger haunts Haiti

"Feed My sheep."

(John 21:17b)

Just as Jesus commanded His disciples to care for others, today we are asked to do the same.

Christ's words take on an extra sense of urgency as global food shortages and an economic crisis threaten the survival of countless people worldwide.

In Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere, food shortages have reached epic proportions. Four major storms battered Haiti last fall, taking lives, destroying homes and ruining crops. Rebuilding and replanting will take time, but the need for food is immediate.

Hungry Haitian families desperately need your help.

Elanie Losange, a mother of two boys, ages 4 and 2, describes the flood that washed away her home and all of their meager belongings: "The water was waist-high, so I grabbed the two boys and ran up the mountain," she says. Elanie, her husband and their children escaped with their lives, but they returned to find total devastation. Their house was gone. The crops and fruit trees they relied on for food and

income were washed away. Now they have nothing.

Despite the family's tragic losses, their faith remains. Elanie says, "I was praying. I'm always praying. Now I pray for food from God. I thank God for protecting us and keeping my children safe. We don't have much, but we still thank God."

Elanie and her husband, Vedzu, have replanted their crops, but they estimate it will take at least a year before they can harvest. The fruit trees will take longer to bear fruit. Elanie is expecting her third child, and she is terrified that she won't be able to feed her baby.

This family is just one example of the many people in Haiti who are struggling to survive. Father

Duken Augustin, a local priest, works tirelessly to help needy families like Elanie's. He relies on Food For The Poor for help, and we, in turn, rely on people like you for support.

Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor is an interdenominational ministry working to end



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the suffering of the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America. Not only do we provide food for the starving, but we also build small houses for the destitute, dig water wells for parched villagers, provide medicine and medical equipment for the sick and elderly, support orphanages and education for children, and much more.

The people of Haiti have suffered greatly this last year. They are hungry, weary and afraid that the world will forget them. Today, you can honor and serve Christ by helping to feed our brothers and sisters in need.

By partnering with Food For The Poor, you can provide lifesaving food for hungry children and their families. Your gift of \$45 will feed 15 children for a month. A gift of \$81 will feed 27 young ones, and \$150 will feed 50 children for a month. Any gift you give will be truly appreciated.

Please, be as generous as you possibly can and help Food For The Poor feed precious children. Please use the postage-paid envelope in the brochure located in this publication to send your gift today.

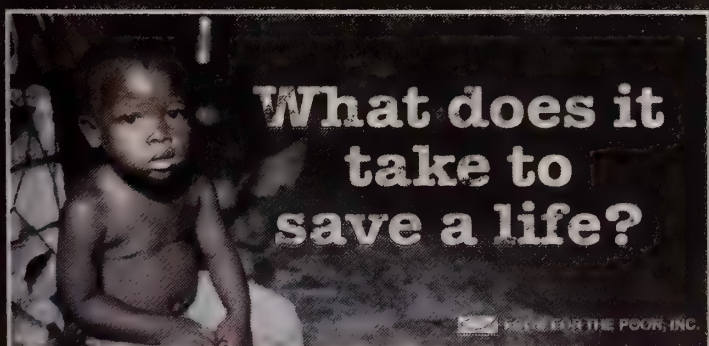
**"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me."
(Matthew 25:40b)**



Father Duken Augustin has dedicated his life to serving the poorest of the poor in northern Haiti. After the storms passed last fall, Father Duken said, "We work hard to help people have a better life. It takes a lot of faith. The situation [here] was hard before, but now people are discouraged. Some of the children are in a very bad condition."

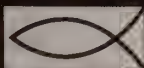
Food For The Poor works directly with clergy throughout the Caribbean and Latin America to help them serve impoverished communities.

A gift that will save lives



Food shortages and rising prices are devastating for the poorest of the poor in Haiti. The price of rice and beans has more than doubled in the past year; yet many in this poverty-stricken country earn less than \$2 a day. The struggle for survival has become increasingly difficult, and lives are at stake.

Today you have the chance to save a life. Please use the Food For The Poor brochure enclosed in this publication to send your gift today. God bless you.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Polish woman writes book detailing close friendship with late pope

OXFORD, England (CNS) — A Polish psychiatrist has published a book of letters and reflections detailing her close, lifelong friendship with Pope John Paul II.

"The Holy Father asked me to publish these notes and meditations as a testimony that each person possesses a spirit which has to develop," said Wanda Poltawska, who was friends with Pope John Paul from his first years as a priest until his death April 2, 2005.

"He was a person with a sense of humor, who was ready to talk and listen to everyone. As soon as I met him, I knew he was a holy person who could not conceal his sanctity," she said at the recent release in Poland of her book, "Beskid Retreats."

Poltawska, 87, said Pope John Paul had approved most of the material and asked her to write the book in the 1990s. She said she still had a "suitcase of letters" from the late pope that will not be released until after her own death.

"When his death was expected, I asked the Holy Father if I should burn these notes and he replied, 'That would be a shame,'" she said.

Poltawska, who studied medicine after surviving the Ravensbruck and Neustadt-Gleve Nazi concentration camps in Germany, got to know the then-Father Karol Wojtyla after he heard her confession in Krakow, Poland.

They later worked together on problems associated with abortion and contraception.

She accompanied the future pontiff on hiking and camping trips, kept him supplied with medicine and vitamins, and corresponded with him on spiritual and religious topics.

When Poltawska, at the time a mother of four young children, was diagnosed with cancer in 1962, then-Bishop Wojtyla sent a request for prayers to Padre Pio and wrote again to thank him when she recovered.

Pope John Paul canonized Padre Pio in 2002.

In numerous letters, affectionately signed "Brat," the Polish word for brother, the future pontiff thanked Poltawska for her reflections. He kept her informed of his spiritual development and credited her with nurturing his own thought on family values and the

"theology of the body."

As a cardinal, he continued to exchange letters containing prayers and meditations with Poltawska.

One time during a vacation in the mountains in August 1978, he recounted to her over breakfast that he had dreamed he saw the late Pope Paul VI "beckoning to me." Two months later, after his election as pope, he told Poltawska he wanted to declare her his "personal expert" on birth control, raising children and pastoral medicine.

"You have followed my priesthood step by step and participated for so many years in uncovering its meanings and values," Pope John Paul wrote to her.

In addition to directing the Family Theology Institute at Krakow University, Poltawska lectured at the John Paul II Institute at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

She and her husband, Andrzej, became members of a new Pontifical Council for the Family in 1983. Poltawska also joined the Pontifical Academy for Life and worked with the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry.

For the pope, she wrote descriptions, now "closed up in the Vatican," of the hills and valleys of his native southern Poland, and took family members on vacation to the papal villa outside Rome at Castel Gandolfo.

Photos in the book show Poltawska's grandchildren paddling with plastic boats in a Castel Gandolfo fountain, and the pope relaxing over tea with his clerical collar undone.

In the final pages of the book, Poltawska describes how she read to the dying pope at his bedside, and she listed the books as "The Robe," by the Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, an American Lutheran minister, "Pan Tadeusz" by Adam Mickiewicz and parts of Pope John Paul's own "Memory and Identity."

The pope died, Poltawska says, when she was on the final page of "The Free City" by Polish writer Mieczyslaw Jaluwiecki.

In a foreword, the president of the Polish bishops' conference, Archbishop Jozef Michalik of Przemyśl, described the book as a "singular diary of the soul."

The book contains unique insights into the late pope's religious life and work as a spiritual guide, he said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 19, 2009

April 19, Divine Mercy Sunday

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- 2) 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel: John 20:19-31

God's mercy endures, sustains us forever

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Mary Faustina lived a life of simplicity as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

She joined them in 1925 at the age of 19 and spent her life working as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses. She died just 13 years later from tuberculosis.

It is in the life of this humble servant of the Lord where we find the foundation for Divine Mercy Sunday.

Faustina regularly received visions that she recorded in a journal. One was a vision of Jesus with two lights emanating from his heart.

She explained that these lights represent the water and blood that flowed from Jesus on the cross and are emblematic of God's endless mercy for us pouring from his heart.

The mercy of God flows to us all. For my wife and me it was never more needed than when we

experienced six miscarriages.

Early in our marriage we went through three excruciating years of trying to sustain a pregnancy. We did all we could, but in the end it was determined that we would not be able to bring a child to full term.

My faith had carried me through a lot, but this seemed too much. I wondered if God cared, doubted his existence and was angry that my faithfulness to him was not being returned.

But in spite of my misgivings, through it all I felt the mercy of God carrying me, as in the scene described by the inspirational piece "Footprints in the Sand." In my darkest hour I no longer was walking beside Jesus; I was being carried by him.

The psalmist exhorts us: "Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His mercy endures forever.'"

We are not called to say "I understand all that the Lord does" or "Because I love the Lord no hard times will befall me." Rather, we are reminded that the mercy of God endures and in fact carries us forever.

On Divine Mercy Sunday we remember that no matter what we face there is one thing that can sustain us — the mercy of God flowing from the heart of Jesus. St. Faustina, pray for us.

Questions:

How would you describe the mercy of God? Was there a time in your life when you felt that Jesus was carrying you?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His mercy endures forever'" (Psalm 118:4).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18

Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday)**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday)**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday)**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday)**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday)**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-25

Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday), Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31; **Monday**, Acts 4:23-31, John 3:1-8; **Tuesday (St. Anselm)**, Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday**, Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday (St. George, St. Adalbert)**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday (St. Fidelis)**, Acts 5:24-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Mark)**, 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 2

Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter), Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48; **Monday**, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort)**, Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Catherine of Siena)**, Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday (St. Pius V)**, Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday (St. Joseph the Worker)**, Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (St. Athanasius)**, Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69.



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Jingle writers say their 'Rosary Tapes' encourage hope, prayer

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Jingle writers John Giaier and Bill Gildenstern have put a new spin on the rosary by combining the traditional mysteries and meditations with contemporary music.

Their product is called the "Rosary Tapes," made up of four compact discs, one for each of the rosary's four sets of mysteries.

"When Bill came up with the idea, at the time I thought he was kind of nutty," Giaier said, joking.

To change Giaier's mind, Gildenstern and his wife, Kelly, put together a sample to the tune of "Silent Night" for Giaier's wife, Debbie.

Her tearful reaction was all it took for Giaier to agree to the rosary project.

Longtime friends and co-owners of a Michigan-based advertising agency, Catholics Giaier and Gildenstern are best known for producing the Ford Motor Co.'s famous jingle "Have you driven a Ford lately?"

The duo has produced more than 6,000 jingles in the past 40 years.

Giaier said the "Rosary Tapes" project has been a "real labor of love" over the years. They have controlled much of the production and distribution

of the "Rosary Tapes" within their company.

Gildenstern, the lyricist of the collection, created meditation concepts for each piece. He consulted Catholic clergy as well as clergy from other Christian denominations to ensure the messages of his songs were accurate.

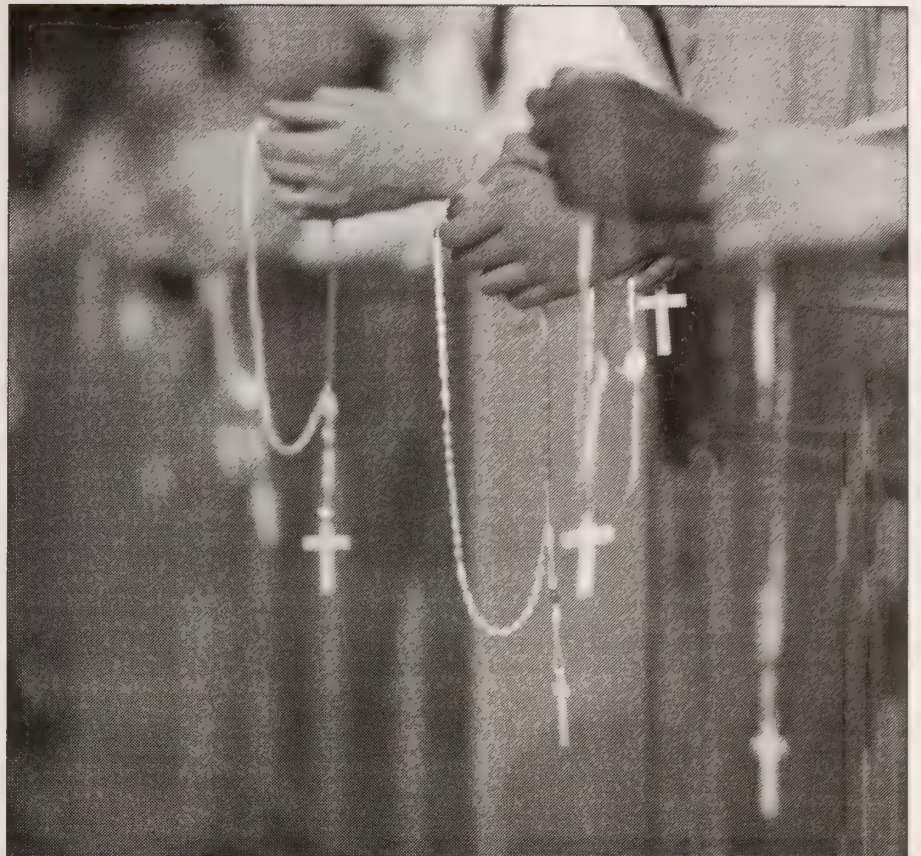
"The songs come right from the Bible and tell a story. It's the actual rosary with the Our Fathers, Hail Marys and meditations. It's inspirational and makes you think," Giaier told Catholic News Service.

Giaier composed and arranged the music with Gildenstern in their own studio. He also provided male vocals on the albums. The outcome was a blend of rock, jazz, blues, country and pop music.

The songs were purposely created to have "staying power" across a wide demographic, said Gildenstern.

"We tried to blend the music so that listeners would never go past a track or two before hearing one of their favorite songs," Gildenstern said.

Since the "Rosary Tapes" project began in the early 1990s, Gildenstern and Giaier have sold about 50,000 sets of the four CDs. Songs from the Grammy-nominated album, "The Joyful Mysteries," which focus on Jesus' birth,



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Young people hold rosaries during the sixth annual Worldwide Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in 2008. Jingle writers John Giaier and Bill Gildenstern have developed a product called "Rosary Tapes," a set of four compact discs, one for each of the rosary's mysteries: joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous.

are available on the "Rosary Tapes" Web site for free.

The CD has had more than 2 million downloads.

The four CDs are titled after the joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous mysteries of the rosary. Pope John Paul II added the luminous mysteries, or the mysteries of light, in 2002.

During his pontificate, Giaier and Gildenstern received a letter sent on the pope's behalf thanking them for their work on the rosary CDs.

They also have received an apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI.

Gildenstern and Giaier hope the "Rosary Tapes" will encourage people of all Christian denominations to pray more often.

"I'm trying to sell the rosary. To me, it's the perfect prayer," Gildenstern told CNS.

"It's a Christian prayer, not just a Catholic prayer. We want you to be whatever you want to be to be comfortable with Jesus," he added.

Gildenstern suggested prayer as a way to find comfort during these tough economic times.

"It really goes past the 'Rosary Tapes.' It's all about hope," Gildenstern said.

"We have to work to overcome our problems. We have to put our hands to the plow, but in the same token, we've got to be praying like crazy," he said.

"If we don't pray, it'll just be a mess," he added.

"★★★★★"
- Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

NICOLAS CAGE

"A MEDITATION ON FAITH AND FAMILY UNITY."
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of April, here is a brief history of the Catholic Daughters of America and its service to the Diocese of Charlotte.



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin is pictured with members of the Catholic Daughters of America in Charlotte in April 1994. Bishop Curlin was one of three North Carolina bishops to serve as national chaplain of the Catholic Daughters.

Founded in 1903 and originally named National Order of Daughters of Isabella, Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) is one of the oldest and largest national organizations of Catholic women in the world.

Located in 45 states as well as Mexico, Guam, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, CDA has 95,000 members with 1,400 local chapters, or courts.

The motto of the CDA is "Unity and Charity," and its members are active in the church and community.

Catholic Daughters are especially noted for their effective fundraising, assistance with charities and zealous support of priests and seminarians.

The first project of CDA Court Charlotte was sponsoring an Altar Society to care for the altar at St. Peter Church (at that time the only Catholic church in Charlotte).

Since then, CDA has engaged in various other projects in the Charlotte area throughout the years, such as sewing vestments, altar linens and hospital gowns.

CDA also rolled bandages for the Red Cross during World War II, made blankets for Holy Angels nursery in Belmont and hosted receptions for priests after their ordination Masses.

CDA still sponsors Priest Appreciation days and is actively involved in the pro-life movement.

Three North Carolina bishops have served as national chaplain to CDA: Bishop William J. Hafey from 1925-1947, Bishop Vincent S. Waters from 1947-1966 and Bishop William G. Curlin from 1990-1994.

Additionally, Bishop Hafey is credited with the establishment of the Junior Catholic Daughters of America (JCDA) in 1926.

Three North Carolina Catholic Daughters have been CDA national directors: Ruth Carlisle of Court Charlotte, Maureen Daughtry of Court Durham and Maryann Grabasky of Court Greensboro, who was elected just recently.

Presently, there are seven courts in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Court Asheville 412 – Established May 21, 1920

Court Charlotte 1199 – Established March 30, 1933

Court Greensboro 1200 – Established March 31, 1933

Court Sacred Heart, Salisbury 1759 – Established Sept. 15, 1957

Court St. Joan of Arc, Asheville 2471 – Established March 4, 2000

Court St. Mary Mother of God, Sylva 2534 – Established June 27, 2004

Court St. Philip the Apostle, Greensboro 2593 – Established Sept. 15, 2007

NOTABLE MOMENTS:

1927: Court Asheville hosts national CDA convention.

May 9, 1933: First regular meeting of Court Charlotte following its establishment. Some of the first motions carried include: all Court Charlotte members to "receive communion in a body on the second Sunday of the month"; designated pews in church will be marked "reserved" for Catholic Daughters.

Sept. 1, 1934: CDA sponsor weekend retreat for lay women at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. Forty women, including three non-Catholics, attend the retreat.

World War II period: Court Charlotte provides support and food for soldiers stationed at Morris Field Air Base in Charlotte — including Catholic books and maintaining of a lounge for soldiers on base. CDA sponsors dances for soldiers at O'Donoghue School and one morning served breakfast to 100 soldiers following their reception of holy Communion.

1950: Court Asheville hosts its second national CDA convention.

1955: North Carolina becomes a state court.

May 1960: North Carolina CDA attends state convention in Winston-Salem and vote on a resolution opposing federal aid to education because it would only support children attending public schools.

CDA votes also on a resolution recommending that President Eisenhower assemble a national conference to examine the problem of public sales of indecent literature and find ways to counteract the loss of values among youth.

March 8, 2008: Court Charlotte celebrates 75 years of service with a Mass offered by court chaplain, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Number of births to unwed mothers on rise in U.S.

BIRTHS, from page 1

between marriage and parenthood.

According to the report, issued in late March by the National Center for Health Statistics, 4.3 million babies were born in 2007 — more than in any other single year in U.S. history. The number of births to unwed mothers reached its highest level at more than 1.7 million. Although 25 percent of these births were to teen mothers, the rest were to women in their 20s through their 40s.

The data reflects an overall trend and something society has come to accept more than it did in previous generations, said S. Philip Morgan, a sociology professor and fertility researcher at Duke University in Durham, N.C. Morgan told Catholic News Service April 1 that the rise in the number of unwed mothers has occurred for several reasons.

For starters, he said the "shotgun wedding solution to a premarital pregnancy" is no longer seen as necessary or something that leads to a lasting marriage. He also said the debate about abortion has "changed the social stigma" of having a child out of wedlock.

"Young pregnant women can carry their babies with pride in a way they couldn't in the '50s and '60s," he said.

Morgan said the pro-life movement in particular has emphasized that it "shows strength, courage and valor to have a baby." Another factor is that "women have dramatically postponed" marriage until later in life or have ruled it out altogether, he said.

In the face of these trends, the Catholic Church offers a countermesssage, urging people to see and value the link between marriage and parenthood.

John Grabowski, associate professor of moral theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said the church stresses this connection

based on natural law and Scripture.

But in recent years, he said, this view also has been supported by studies from social scientists demonstrating that "children are much happier and much better cared for in a stable marriage."

But clearly not everyone is buying the message, in part because it gets "a lot of competition from today's culture," Grabowski said.

He said the church's teachings on marriage are prevalent in the writings of Pope John Paul II and can be found in parts of the U.S. bishops' National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage.

Mary Jo Pedersen, former family ministries specialist at the Family Life Office in the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., said the bishops' marriage initiative and diocesan family life programs are key ways the church is stressing the value of married life.

Pedersen said the church walks a fine line pastorally when it highlights the role of married couples in shaping children while also addressing the many contributions of single parents.

The bishops similarly addressed this issue in their 1991 pastoral, "Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation and World."

"We support and applaud the often heroic efforts of single-parent families," they wrote in the statement, adding: "We also emphasize the value of parents staying together and sacrificing to raise children. Children generally do best when they have the love and support — personal and material — of both their parents."

Pederson is convinced that married couples teach children about God just by their daily example of loving each other and showing forgiveness and commitment.

"Without doing anything extra," she said, "parents' lived example teaches children of God's faithful love ... which is why the church says marriage is the best way to form children in the image and likeness of God."

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Sainthood soon?

For Pope John Paul II, beatification process may be on final lap

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — They brought flowers and messages to his grave. They sang songs evoking his memory. And they prayed for his beatification.

The fourth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II April 2 was marked by a sense of anticipation following reports that the late pontiff would be beatified on the fifth anniversary next year.

The Vatican has played down those rumors. But among the thousands who flocked to his tomb and gathered in St. Peter's Basilica for a memorial Mass, the feeling was strongly hopeful.

"There's all kinds of talk about him being beatified. It's only a matter of time before it happens. He's heading so fast toward sainthood that they're only waiting to give him a little bit more legitimacy, I guess," said Samantha Coveleski, 22, of Lewes, Del.

Coveleski was among hundreds of people who jammed the crypt area of St. Peter's Basilica April 2 to pay their respects at Pope John Paul II's tomb. They left candles, photos and letters, and murmured prayers in many languages.

On the white marble tombstone lay three red roses.

"So many people loved this guy so much. When you're at the tomb you can really see what the big deal is," Coveleski said. "He was so accessible during his papacy, and here you can really see and feel how much he was loved."

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated the commemorative Mass and said he was praying for "the gift of beatification" for his predecessor. In 2005, Pope Benedict

set Pope John Paul on the fast track to beatification by waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the introduction of his sainthood cause.

That seemed to respond to the "Santo subito!" ("Sainthood now!") banners that were held aloft at Pope John Paul's funeral.

The initial diocesan phase of the cause was completed in April 2007.

Last November a team of theological consultants to the Congregation for Saints' Causes began studying the 2,000-page "positio," the document that makes the case for beatification, according to Archbishop Angelo Amato, head of the congregation.

Archbishop Amato told Vatican Radio that once the theological study of the "positio" is completed, the cause will be considered by the cardinal and bishop members of the congregation.

If approved, it will then go to the pope for a final decision on a decree of "venerability," which means the person lived the Christian virtues heroically.

Meanwhile, a presumed miracle through the intercession of the late pope — involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson's disease — is being studied in a five-step process that involves medical experts, a medical board, theological consultants, the members of the congregation and, finally, the pope.

With the decree of venerability and a confirmed miracle, beatification can take place.

Archbishop Amato emphasized that the Vatican could not promise a timetable for all this. The fact that the Vatican is expediting the cause doesn't mean "haste



CNS PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope John Paul II touches the Western Wall in Jerusalem on the final day of his Holy Land pilgrimage in this March 26, 2000, file photo. The fourth anniversary of the pope's death April 2 was marked by a sense of anticipation following reports that the late pontiff would be beatified on the fifth anniversary next year.

or superficiality," but on the contrary demands methodical attention to detail, he said.

Five years from death to beatification may not strike people as "subito," but it would be a modern record in the church; even for Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was described by many as a "living saint" and for whom the waiting period was also waived, it took six years to complete the process.

Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, personal secretary to the late pope and one of his biggest beatification boosters, was in Rome for the fourth anniversary. He told reporters that a presumed miracle had recently occurred at Pope John Paul II's

tomb in St. Peter's Basilica.

A nine year-old Polish boy from Gdansk, suffering from cancer of the kidneys and unable to walk, was brought to the tomb by his parents, Cardinal Dziwisz said. When they left St. Peter's, the boy told them, "I want to walk," and began walking in good health, he said.

Vatican officials are not publicizing what are said to be 251 "inexplicable" healings or other events attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, and which have been filed away.

Like Archbishop Amato, the officials emphasize the seriousness of the study being undertaken and insist there are no foregone conclusions.

Pope John Paul II remembered on anniversary of death

POPE, from page 1

April 5 celebration of World Youth Day as they remembered Pope John Paul.

At the end of the Mass, young people carrying oil lamps led Pope Benedict into the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica, where they all knelt and prayed at the tomb of Pope John Paul.

During his homily, Pope Benedict said the torch of faith and hope was what Pope John Paul "left us as a heritage."

"He consigned it to me, as his successor, and this evening I pass it on once again to you, the young people of Rome, so that you would continue to be sentinels of the morning, vigilant and joyful," said Pope Benedict.

Throughout his life Pope John Paul did not hesitate using all his energy to spread the light (of Christ) everywhere," the pope said. "He was not willing to

compromise when it came to proclaiming and defending Christ's truth. He never tired of spreading his love."

The fruitfulness of Pope John Paul's life and ministry, he said, is seen in the faces of the young men and women who crowded into St. Peter's Basilica for the anniversary Mass.

"How many vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, how many young families committed to living the Gospel ideal and aiming for holiness are tied to the witness and preaching of my venerated predecessor," the pope said.

"How many young men and women converted or persevered in their Christian journey thanks to his prayers, his encouragement, his support and his example," Pope Benedict said.

"At the hour of his agony and death, this new generation wanted to show him they understood his teaching by gathering silently in prayer in St. Peter's Square and many other places throughout the world," the pope said.



CNS PHOTO BY EMANUELA DE MEIO, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

People pray near candles on the fourth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II at the Vatican April 2. The candles form the initials of the late pontiff.

While Pope Benedict did not make any mention of the process to beatify and canonize Pope John Paul, he did end his homily by praying that the late pope "never ceases to accompany us and intercede for us from heaven."

After praying in the grotto and

before leaving St. Peter's, Pope Benedict stopped to greet Angelo Gugel, Pope John Paul's Vatican valet, and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart Sisters from Poland who ran the papal apartment and cared for Pope John Paul during his final illness.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

For ongoing dialogue

Inquiring into the science and morality of life at the moment of resurrection

Robert George, a government professor at Princeton University, and I have had an ongoing dialogue on stem cell research.

Both of us, as Catholics, have faith-based reservations about President Barack Obama's recent lifting of restrictions on federal funding for research on new stem cell lines.

We recognize that, as Cardinal Justin Rigali and Bishop William E. Lori have personally instructed Vice President Joseph Biden, the Catholic answer to when life begins is said to be both "a matter of objective [biological or scientific] fact" and a "moral" conclusion dependent upon a principle of "natural law accessible to people of good will."

As such, the embryo and the human adult are entitled to the same "inalienable rights bestowed by the Creator."

In essence, our faith makes a scientific claim and a moral one.

But then, why do President Obama and other intelligent, non-Catholic people disagree?

To closely examine the source of that disagreement, and to know better whether the church's answer to the life question is based more in science or theology/philosophy or evenly in both, we are continuing our helpful conversation.

We are also inviting comments from everyone interested in this subject.

Responses may be sent to faithprecedent@gmail.com.

It is always a pleasure for me to engage in discussion with George because of his great knowledge and even greater courtesy.

And I ask anyone responding to this request to observe the same ethic.

Far too often it seems as if we Catholics are drawn into boxing matches with each other, whether it be over the proper scope of medical research or who Notre Dame should ask to its graduations.

Instead, we propose to continue this inquiry, slow to judge and answering in love.

When does life begin such that no governmental or legal system could be called "just" if it failed to accord full legal recognition and protection to that life?

The pro-life office of the bishops has compiled a very useful list of statements from scientists that identifies fertilization as the point when life begins (www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/fact298.shtml).

Then too there are distinguished scientists who often qualify the answer.

For example, the director of the

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST



Centre of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College London notes that some scientists say 14 days, since that is when the primitive streak, the precursor of the nervous system, emerges.

Other scientists rely on this later point because, prior to it, twinning or triplets are possible.

Still other men and women of science ask why either the nervous system or the number of embryos is relevant since neither relates to consciousness.

But then, why does consciousness matter? We wouldn't unplug Uncle Harry's respirator just because he is in a transient coma, would we?

There would not seem any escape from the theological or philosophical aspect of the answer.

If so, have scientists only picked a point later than fertilization to facilitate their own work, specifying the 14-day line as a political compromise to avoid unspeakable research on late-stage embryos?

(Remember, in science the embryo stage lasts through 8 weeks.)

By the same token, is it right for some scientists to claim that "the question over experimenting with embryos is not about whether they are (within the human species) or not?"

"That's not what matters. What matters is being a person with rights and interests," and that is not a scientific question.

What happens when everyone from scientists to presidents to Presbyterians are not on the same page as Catholics on this?

Is it enough to proclaim, as our church teaching does, that "those who hold a narrower and more exclusionary view have the burden of explaining why"?

But we submit there is, in this Easter season, a need for humility and charity in the evaluation of the answers submitted.

In that spirit, we look forward to reading your helpful responses at faithprecedent@gmail.com.

We must embrace a youthful thirst for justice

Church has duty to couple passion for justice with encounters with Christ

Too often, new reports document the waning religious interest of young adults.

And while there is ample reason to worry about the graying of the church, particularly in Europe and North America, there is also cause for hope.

One element of Catholic faith that still profoundly resonates with young adults is helping the poor.

A major report on young adult Catholics, from 2007, found that 78 percent of those ages 18-39 believe that charitable efforts toward helping the poor are essential to their faith.

It's no secret that passion to change the world has long been a strength of young adults.

Just ask the Peace Corps, Doctors Without Borders and countless mission and outreach organizations across the globe.

It seems that each new generation burns with a special thirst for justice.

At the same time, young adult Catholics of our own time are far less likely to attend weekly Mass or become registered with a local parish, according to a 2008 report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington.

This has left dioceses across the nation wrestling with how to connect a whole generation to the life of the church.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Dominican Father Francis Hung Le's annual medical mission trip to impoverished countries might offer some clues on how to invite young adults into the profound work of the church — work that changes both the world and the individuals who labor for justice.

A group of local Jesuit volunteers works in Anchorage at places like the Beans Cafe soup kitchen and the Red Cross.

This band of eight young adults lives together in Christian community and upholds spirituality as a foundational tenet of their mission.

Studies of former Jesuit volunteers find that they are more likely to attend Mass and stay married later on in life.

This is social justice with a spiritual bedrock.

Similarly, Father Le's mission trips are another shining example of pairing a passion for justice with a quest for eternal matters.

In February, the pastor of Holy Family Cathedral continued his annual tradition of taking a group of medical professionals to his homeland in Vietnam to provide medical aid to the poorest of the poor.

Woven between the remote medical stops were regular celebrations of the

Guest Column

JOEL DAVIDSON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Mass and collaborative work with priests and religious sisters from Vietnam.

This is the sort of seamless garment of faith and action that could well inspire a generation of young Catholics to reconsider the faith of the saints.

In Pope Benedict XVI's recent message for World Youth Day 2009, he explored the question of how young people might find the hope that is Christ.

To this end, the pope called young people to pray, receive the sacraments and to "cultivate love of neighbor and try to put yourselves and your human talents and professional abilities at the service of the common good and of truth."

Youthful zeal remains. It is the duty of the church to couple this passion for justice with instruction in the faith and encounters with our Savior.

It cannot be one or the other. Religious instruction without a hand reaching to the poor rings hollow to a generation that desires justice.

At the same time, social outreach without a robust spiritual backbone loses all eternal significance.

Joel Davidson is editor of the Catholic Anchor, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Why be Catholic?

Our immortality is directly related to our union with Christ

There are many reasons for being Catholic, but the one that excites me most is what C.S. Lewis called the eternity factor.

We seldom see the hidden hand of God at work in this world, but God is always active in human history.

C.S. Lewis always stressed that "the church will outlive the universe," and because of this, "the individual person within it will outlive the universe."

"Everything that is joined to the immortal head (of the mystical body of Christ) will share his immortality. ...

"If we do not believe it (this truth)," Lewis insisted, "let us be honest and relegate the Christian faith to museums" ("The Weight of Glory").

Lewis debunked the non-Christian notion that each one of us starts with the treasure we call the "personality" locked up within us, and that the main end of life is to expand and express the shoddy ego and to guard it from interference so as always to be "original."

He scoffed that no one who seeks originality for its own sake will ever be original.

In light of this truth, we know that the true goal of human life is to abide in

Jesus Christ and attain heaven.

We are called to tell the truth as we see it and do any bit of work as well as it can be done for the work's sake. When we succeed at this, originality will come unsought. In Christ, with him and through him the goal of eternal life becomes possible.

Lewis said: "There will come a time when every culture, every institution, every nation, the human race, all biological life is extinct and every one of us is still alive. Immortality is promised to us."

Immortality, the gift of living beyond the time/space limits of this world, will come only to those who belong to the inner life of God.

This gift is bestowed on us by virtue of our membership in Christ's body.

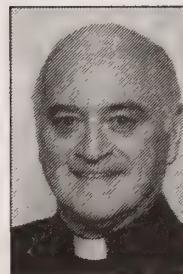
Jesus is the only eternal being who has ever lived. By belonging to his mystical body we will share in his eternal destiny.

Lewis continued, "It is not the individual as such who will share Christ's victory over death. We shall share the victory by being in the Victor."

Our immortality is directly related to our union with Christ.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



Baptism makes us an organic part of the body of Christ. The mystical body of Christ is a metaphor for the cosmic Christ, who pervades and penetrates the entire universe.

It is a metaphor, which helps us to explain the unexplainable.

"There lies the maddening ambiguity of our faith as it must appear to outsiders," Lewis wrote.

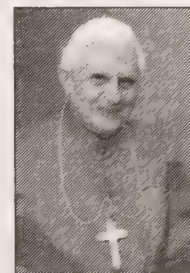
As private individuals, "as mere biological entities, each with its separate will to live and to expand, we are apparently of no account. ... But as organs in the body of Christ, as stones and pillars in the temple, we are assured of our eternal self-identity and shall live to remember the galaxies as an old tale."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines membership in the mystical body of Christ as extending well beyond the limits of the Roman Catholic Church, but the essential truth is that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church to open the gates of heaven for one and all.

Holy Week offers occasion to understand gift of salvation, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The rituals of Holy Week and Easter offer Catholics an opportunity to understand the "priceless gift of salvation obtained by Christ's sacrifice" on the cross, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The Easter triduum, which represents the heart of the whole liturgical year, is a time for the faithful to immerse themselves in the central events of redemption, to relive the paschal mystery and to meditate "more vividly on the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord," he said.

At his general audience April 8 in St. Peter's Square, the pope explained the meaning of the liturgies the church was to celebrate in the coming days.

The pope prayed that the Holy Week celebrations would draw all Christians "more deeply into Christ's paschal mystery."

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Tomorrow we begin the holy Triduum, the heart of the entire liturgical year: a time when we immerse ourselves in the central events of our redemption.

The chrism Mass serves as a prelude to these three days, as priests renew their promises to the bishop, who then blesses the holy oils and consecrates the chrism signifying the gift of the Holy Spirit.

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we recall the institution of the Eucharist, the supreme sign of Christ's love for us.

As we venerate his cross on Good Friday, we contemplate the full meaning of his words: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many" (Mk 14:24).

Holy Saturday finds us waiting in silent hope for the Easter Vigil, when every church will break forth in a song of joy at the Lord's resurrection.

The celebration of the paschal mystery recalls the depth of Christ's love: he did not wish to exercise his divinity as an exclusive possession, a means of domination, or a sign of distance between him and us.

Rather, "he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2:7) by sharing fully in our human condition, even to the point of death — not a death imposed by blind chance or fate, but one freely chosen in obedience to the Father's will for the salvation for all.

May our fervent celebration of the Triduum draw us ever more deeply into Christ's paschal mystery!

Transcending self-interest

How faithful people go about the work of politics

Politics is a contact sport but still one that people of faith can influence by bringing reconciliation and humility to the game, according to a man with a unique perspective on both faith and politics.

"I think it is important in our country to be engaged in the political process and to understand that politics is a difference of ideas," said John Danforth, a former three-term senator from Missouri, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and an ordained Episcopal priest.

"It is not everybody sitting around and agreeing with each other," he added. "We do disagree and we have vigorous debates and that's the way it should be."

He published a book in 2006, "Faith and Politics," in which he wrote Christians have a choice between reconciliation and divisiveness, and "those who have chosen the latter course are getting all the attention."

The relationship of faith and politics is not about fashioning religious beliefs into political platforms, he wrote, adding, "It is, instead, the way in which faithful people go about the work of politics."

I had the opportunity to meet

Danforth, and I asked him if his book remained relevant following a national election and a change in administration.

"This is a subject that is very germane today," he replied. Christians must take their rightful place in the public square, but should "do so in context of not believing any one of us has the monopoly on truth, an understanding that we can be wrong and the other guy can turn out to be right."

"I think that people of faith can bring that kind of message to public debate," Danforth said.

"Not that we pull our punches, not that we feel less vigorously about different approaches to government. But along with strong views, we can bring a sense of humility, a sense that the other guy could be right and we could turn out to be wrong."

Danforth graduated from Yale Law School and Yale Divinity School in 1963 and was ordained later that year. He was Missouri's attorney general for eight years.

He was elected to the Senate in 1977, served three terms and retired in 1995.

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



"Religion can be very divisive," he said. "We see that throughout the world and we see that throughout history. On the other hand, religion brings to politics a sense of humility and a sense that God's truth transcends our perception of it so that we are not the custodian of God's truth in the political sphere."

"I think that degree of modesty helps people disagree in an agreeable fashion."

Danforth was a special presidential U.S. envoy to Sudan in 2001 and brokered a peace agreement that ultimately ended a 20-year civil war in 2005. He sees a role for reconciliation and humility in foreign affairs.

"I think that Sudan was an example of the United States trying to be a constructive force in a country where our self-interest was hard to define," he reflected.

There is a strong role for realism in the conduct of foreign affairs, he said, and added: "I think that people of faith can bring to any government policy something other than self-interest, something that transcends self-interest."

Picking up the pieces

Pope says he wants to visit Italian earthquake victims

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Encouraging solidarity with the victims of the earthquake that struck central Italy April 6, Pope Benedict XVI also promised to visit the survivors.

"My dear ones, I hope to come see you as soon as possible," the pope said April 8 at the end of his weekly general audience, which is televised throughout Italy.

Shortly before the papal audience, Italian government officials raised the official death toll in the city and province of L'Aquila to 250 people and said more than 1,000 were injured, about 100 seriously.

The main quake, which struck at 3:30 a.m. April 6, registered a magnitude of between 5.8 and 6.3 on the Richter scale. Hundreds of tremors followed, including an aftershock April 7 that registered 5.3 on the Richter scale and caused more buildings to crumble.

At the end of his audience, the pope said he wanted to reaffirm his closeness to the people of central Italy suffering because of the earthquake.

Pope Benedict praised the work of the Italian government, police, firefighters, military and volunteers working to rescue victims, house and

feed the thousands left homeless, and ascertain which homes, churches, offices and businesses are safe to enter.

The assistance efforts, he said, "demonstrate how important solidarity is for overcoming such a harsh trial together. Once again, I want to tell those dear people that the pope shares their suffering and their worries."

"Know that the pope prays for all of you, imploring the mercy of God for the deceased, and he asks for the maternal comfort of Mary and the support of Christian hope for their families and the survivors," Pope Benedict said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said planning for a papal visit to the region was under way, but he said it would take place at least a week after Easter.

Father Lombardi said Pope Benedict spoke to Archbishop Giuseppe Molinari of L'Aquila by telephone after the audience and promised that after his chrisem Mass April 9 he would send the archdiocese some of the sacred oils he blessed for use in the sacraments since the archbishop would not be able to celebrate a chrisem Mass in his own cathedral.

Archbishop Molinari told SIR, the news agency of the Italian bishops' conference, that he hoped the pope's visit would take place in the first days



CNS PHOTO BY GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

An Italian soldier stands in front of a damaged church after an earthquake in the Italian village of Paganica April 6. A powerful earthquake struck central Italy as residents slept April 6, killing more than 200 people and leaving up to 17,000 homeless.

after Easter.

Italian news agencies quoted a spokesman for the archdiocese as saying the pope would visit April 13 or 14, flying by helicopter from Castel Gandolfo, the papal villa outside Rome where the pope was scheduled to spend Easter week.

Among the rescue workers assisting in the region were eight members of the Vatican fire department.

Domenico Giani, director of Vatican security services, told Vatican Radio that as soon as he heard about the earthquake he and the officials in charge of the Vatican governor's office discussed ways they could help and then spoke to Pope Benedict about it.

"It seemed important at this moment of great pain to ensure that one of our fire department squads was present to lend a hand," he said.

The firefighters, including a structural engineer, were sent to Onna, a tiny town near L'Aquila that was almost completely destroyed by the quake; 40 of the town's 350 residents were killed.

Giani said that after helping recover bodies the first night the Vatican fire fighters started assisting the survivors.

Interviewed from Onna, Paolo De Angelis, the Vatican structural engineer, told Vatican Radio April 7, "The situation is disastrous. The town is destroyed."

But, he said, even though most of the residents have lost everything, they are helping each other.

The quake, which was felt even 70 miles away in Rome, also did major damage in the town of Paganica, where it claimed the life of Abbess Gemma Antonucci, head of the Poor Clares' Convent of St. Clare.

In an interview with SIR, Father Dionisio Rodriguez Cuartas, the pastor in Paganica and director of Caritas L'Aquila, said the roof of the Poor Clares' convent caved in.

In the early afternoon April 6, rescue workers were able to recover the body of the abbess and to free another nun from the debris. Two of the dozen members of the community were hospitalized with broken bones;



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO, REUTERS

A crucifix hangs amid rubble of a destroyed house after an earthquake in the Italian village of Onna April 6.

the others were unharmed.

In a telegram the same day to Archbishop Molinari, the Vatican secretary of state said Pope Benedict had asked him to convey his "participation in the pain of the dear population struck by this tragic event."

"In assuring fervid prayers for the victims, particularly the children, His Holiness invokes the Lord to comfort the families, and while he addresses affectionate words of encouragement to the survivors and those involved in the rescue operations, he sends all a special apostolic blessing," Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone told the archbishop.

Archbishop Molinari told SIR that many of the churches in his diocese had been damaged or totally destroyed; his residence and chancery also were heavily damaged.

The region had been experiencing small quakes for weeks, he said.

"Thank God I was not in my room asleep because I did not feel very safe," he said; instead he went to his office to deal with paperwork.

As soon as the quake hit, he left the building with a priest and the nuns he lives with, the archbishop said.

"The most beautiful churches" in L'Aquila and nearby towns were destroyed, he said, listing five buildings.

And, like the Poor Clares' convent the cathedral was damaged when several sections of the roof caved in.

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Saved at sea

Daring rescue of ship's captain leaves Vermont parish overjoyed

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — When news of the bold liberation of U.S. Capt. Richard Phillips from the grip of pirates off the coast of Somalia filtered through his Vermont Catholic parish April 12, members of his church community felt like their Easter prayers had been answered.

"We're so happy that it turned out the way that it did," said Donna Schaeffler, secretary of St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, Vt., the parish where Phillips, 53, and his wife, Andrea, regularly attend Mass.

"There is so much media here and we're trying to give the Phillipses their privacy, but we've been praying at Mass for his safe release," Schaeffler said.

See CAPTAIN, page 6

With courage and conviction



PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

Transitional Deacon Benjamin Roberts of Statesville prays the Liturgy of the Hours during a holy hour in a chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., April 1.

*Seminarians
prepare for
priesthood through
prayer, study*

BY MARY B.
WORTHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

WYNNEWOOD, Pa. — It is 6 o'clock in the morning April 1, and a dozen seminarians start their day at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary with an hour of prayer.

Among the seminarians are three of the 14 men studying at seminaries to be ordained priests for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The pews are notoriously squeaky, yet the chapel is profoundly quiet and peaceful. Many of the seminarians use the time to pray the Liturgy of the Hours' Office of Readings.

All ordained clergy and vowed religious are bound to observe the Liturgy of the Hours. In order to prepare them

See **CALLING**, page 5



PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

The Kanda brothers, refugees from Liberia assisted by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, read a book at their home in Charlotte in April. CSS Awareness Week is April 25-May 3.

Catholic Social Services Awareness Week 2009

April 25-May 3

*Inside is a look at some of the ways
Catholic Social Services of the
Diocese of Charlotte is helping people
across the diocese and beyond.*

See coverage on pages 7-10.

School wins national award

Students hit pavement in fight against diabetes

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — A local Catholic school received national honors from the American Diabetes Association for the most money raised by a school in the 2008 National

See WALK, page 13

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Culture Watch

Book on military tales; a priest's take on Susan Boyle

| PAGE 11

Youths in Action

Youths win essay contest; take part in cultural trip

| PAGE 12

Reflecting on Easter

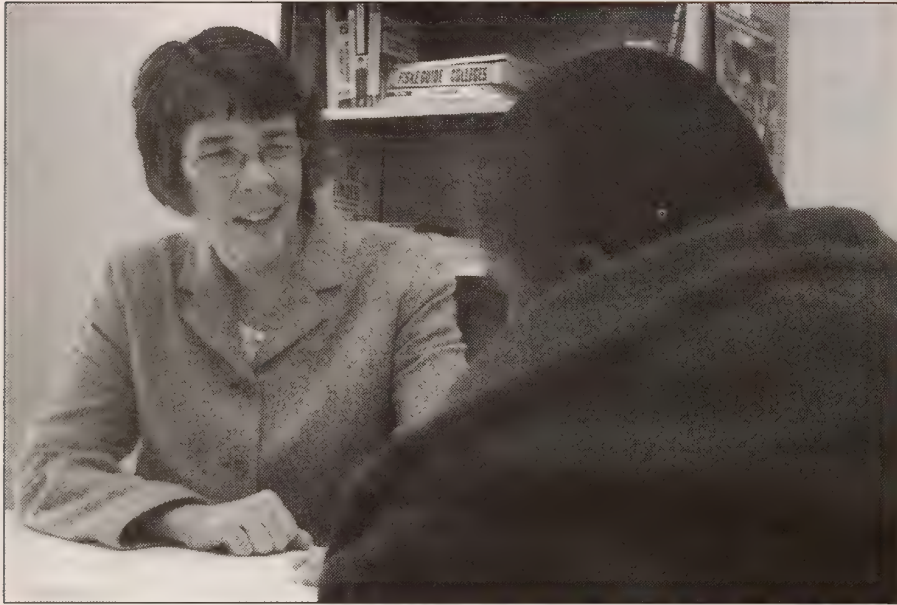
Parishes, schools celebrate spirit of Easter

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

INFLUENCING MANY WITH MERCY



CNS PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB, CATHOLIC STANDARD & TIMES

Mercy Sister Mary Scullion, co-founder and executive director of Project HOME, reads with a young man at the center in Philadelphia April 3. Sister Scullion has been named a finalist in Time magazine's 2009 annual most influential list.

Mercy nun a finalist for Time list of world's most influential people

PHILADELPHIA — You wouldn't expect to see a Philadelphia nun who works with the homeless on a list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Mercy Sister Mary Scullion, co-founder and executive director of Project HOME, has been named a finalist in Time magazine's 2009 annual most influential list, which calls her "Philadelphia's Mother Teresa."

As of April 23, she was ranked 49th among 204 nominees in continuing online voting, ahead of the Dalai Lama. The list includes people in government, science, technology and the arts.

On the plus side, according to the citation, she has helped slash the homeless rate in half in the City of Brotherly Love, and 95 percent of those who cycle through Project HOME are never again homeless, "a success rate which has made the program a model for dozens of other U.S. cities."

The only negative, according to the citation: "She's not too well-known outside of Philly."

That's beginning to change.

"It's not about me; we are a community of a lot of people," Sister Scullion said.

She co-founded Project HOME in 1989, along with Joan Dawson McConnon, to whom Sister Scullion attributes as much, if not more, responsibility for the organization's success. HOME stands for Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care, Education.

Now 55, Sister Scullion, the daughter of Irish immigrants, was a high school senior when she applied to the Sisters of Mercy in 1971.

Living and working among the poorest people in north Philadelphia,

Sister Scullion felt drawn to a ministry more directly involved in alleviating their needs. She joined the staff of Mercy Hospice, a shelter conducted by her congregation for homeless women.

A defining moment for her was the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, held in Philadelphia in 1976, which brought to the city such advocates for the poor as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India; Father Pedro Arrupe, the Jesuits' superior general; and Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement.

"Father Arrupe said, 'When people are hungry anywhere in the world, the Eucharist is incomplete,'" she said. "The Eucharist is central to my spiritual life, and there is a place for everyone at God's table." The same principle holds for homelessness. "Our vision is that none of us are home until all of us are home," she said.

In 1985 she was a co-founder of Women of Hope, a safe haven that provides permanent housing for mentally ill women.

Since 1989, Project HOME has been her main focus. And under the leadership of Sister Scullion and McConnon, it has grown from transitional housing for 12 men to a multifaceted agency designed to break the cycle of homelessness for the men and women it serves.

A woman of seemingly boundless energy, she usually finds time for a run through Philadelphia's Fairmount Park a couple of times each week and hopes to participate in a May 3 10-mile run in the city. But most of her energy is spent in mission.

The question for Sister Scullion is what is God's vision for the world and what can be done to make it happen, through his grace, prayer and community.

Catholic coalition seeks to influence outcome of climate-change bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Led by a coalition of more than a dozen Catholic organizations, religious communities are ramping up efforts to ensure that the legislative debate on climate change beginning April 22 in Congress will not overlook the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

The effort of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and the National Religious Partnership on the Environment came as the House Energy and Commerce Committee opened hearings on a clean energy bill. The Catholic coalition unveiled the Catholic Climate Covenant, a wide-ranging climate-change campaign, during a nationwide teleconference April 21.

Aimed largely at Catholics in the country's 19,000 parishes and 6,250 elementary schools, the campaign integrates the traditional Catholic practice of prayer with specific actions meant to reduce an individual's carbon footprint on the world while influencing public policy.

Several coalition leaders said specific

steps involve lobbying Congress and state legislatures about the need to pass prudent legislation that takes into account the needs of the common good, specifically the poor whom they say are affected most by climate change.

While noting that the effort revolves around prayer and reflection, John Carr, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and coalition chairman, acknowledged that working within the political arena will be a necessary part of the campaign's work. "There is going to be a huge debate, in fact a struggle ... and our voice is going to be that voice that puts the poor first," he said.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., honorary chairman of the campaign, said the campaign is "an urgent call with an urgent message."

The campaign is being introduced at a time when a majority of Catholics believe that climate change is a serious problem, according to pollster John Zogby.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An Estate Planning Seminar will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., April 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center. The seminar is free and dinner will be provided. RSVP to Maxine Mauney at (704) 364-5431, ext. 203 by April 25 to reserve your place.

CHARLOTTE — "Water into Wine," an Ignatian retreat for women, will take place at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., May 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door. To register, call the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail retreat4women@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The 66th Semi-Annual Rosary Rally will be held May 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. This 33-year tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. The homilist is Father Brandon Jones. Children ages 7-17, who have received their first Communion, are invited to participate in the procession. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — The fourth annual community shredding event at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will be May 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parishioners and members of the community are encouraged to bring their documents to St. Matthew Church where PROSHRED Security will destroy them for free while you watch. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — A special concert performance by Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna will be take place at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., May 3 in the church at 7 p.m. Once a professional bass guitarist, Father Fortuna is a member of the Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Bronx, N.Y. From traditional hymns of praise to jazz, reggae and rap, Father Fortuna proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a spiritual energy that appeals to all ages.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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APRIL 24, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 24

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican deplores Belgian parliament's criticism of pope on condoms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has deplored a Belgian parliamentary resolution that criticized Pope Benedict XVI for his remarks about condoms and AIDS prevention.

In an April 17 statement, the Vatican's Secretariat of State said it "deplores the fact that a parliamentary assembly should have thought it appropriate to criticize the Holy Father on the basis of an isolated extract from an interview, separated from its context and used by some groups with a clear intent to intimidate."

The statement said it appeared that those groups were hoping "to dissuade the pope from expressing himself on certain themes of obvious moral relevance and from teaching the church's doctrine."

The Belgian parliament voted overwhelmingly April 2 to have the government relay to the Vatican the parliamentarians' disapproval of Pope Benedict's statement March 17 that distributing condoms was not the key to

preventing AIDS. The Belgian ambassador to the Holy See, Frank de Coninck, met April 15 at the Vatican with Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, secretary for relations with states, to formally inform the Vatican of the resolution.

The pope was asked about condoms in AIDS prevention by reporters aboard his flight to Cameroon March 17. After highlighting the church's efforts to help AIDS victims, the pope said: "One cannot overcome the problem with the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem."

The pope went on to explain that true prevention requires a change in sexual behavior and a real effort to befriend and care for those living with AIDS.

In its statement April 17, the Secretariat of State said the pope "also emphasized the commitment of the church in both these areas. Without this moral and educational dimension, the battle against AIDS will not be won."

For more information, contact the church office at (704) 549-1607.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A Men's Night of Reflection will be held at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., in Grace Auditorium on the 3rd floor of St. Leo Hall, May 3 at 7 p.m. Featured speakers will include Legionaries of Christ Father Todd Belardi, formation director for Pinecrest Academy Boys School in Atlanta; and Peter Freissle, president of Polydeck Screen Corporation. Father Belardi will speak on the topic "Faithful Catholic Fathers and their Children." Freissle will speak on the topic "Christian Values in the Workplace." For more information, call Matt Ferrante at (410) 507-4329. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — "For me to live is Christ," a series of six presentations on the life and message of St. Paul will begin April 30 from 7 to 8 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., in the Parish Life Council lounge. All are invited for an hour of information and discussion. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Jaqueline Messick at jmessick2@triad.rr.com.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and discussion in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start a month-long program on the Book of Joshua May 5. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet at 7 p.m. May 7 in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For further information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

GREENSBORO — A Mass of thanksgiving and celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima will take place May 13 at Our Lady of Grace

Church, 2205 West Market St. Celebrating priests will include Father John Putnam (homilist), Father James Ebright, Father Conrad Kimbrough, Father Richard DeClue and Father Christopher Roux. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Mass following at 6 p.m. For more information, call (336) 765-1815.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

BRYSON CITY — Guest speaker Father Robert Rivers, a member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, will present reflections on the writing and the mission of St. Paul at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., April 27. The presentation will begin with Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck supper and the program beginning around 5:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish. For more information, call the church office at (828) 497-9755.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Father Kurt Fohn, pastor of St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville, will share his experience as husband, father and priest in a presentation addressing the challenges facing the Catholic family today to be held in the Bishop Begley parish center of St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., April 28 at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Mary Beth Young at yrmmarybeth@aol.com or call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican officials object to Iranian president's remarks on Israel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has criticized Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's remarks about Israel at a U.N. conference on racism as "extremist and unacceptable" and said the comments promote an atmosphere of conflict.

At the same time, Vatican officials, including Pope Benedict XVI, emphasized the importance of participation in the conference, which was being boycotted by the United States and several other Western countries.

Ahmadinejad told conference participants in Geneva April 20 that Israel had "resorted to military aggression to make an entire nation homeless under the pretext of Jewish suffering" and had established a "totally racist government in the occupied Palestine."

His comments prompted a temporary walkout by dozens of diplomats in attendance.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told Vatican Radio April 20 that "statements like those of the Iranian president do not go in the right direction, because even if he did not deny the Holocaust or the right of Israel to exist, he expressed extremist and unacceptable positions."

"For this reason it is important to continue to affirm with clarity the respect

for human dignity against every form of racism or intolerance. We hope the conference can still serve this purpose," Father Lombardi said.

The following day, the Vatican spokesman issued a broader statement, saying that "the Holy See deplores the use of this United Nations forum for the adoption of political positions of an extremist and offensive nature against any state."

"This does not contribute to dialogue and it provokes an unacceptable atmosphere of conflict," it said.

Father Lombardi said the conference was an important opportunity to take new steps toward "effectively combating the racism and intolerance that still today affect children, women, those of African descent, migrants and indigenous peoples ... in every part of the world."

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the chief Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, said although the Vatican objected to the Iranian president's remarks about Israel, Vatican delegation members did not think walking out was the right response.

On April 19, Pope Benedict underlined the importance of the international conference and urged participants to take concrete steps to combat discrimination and intolerance around the world.

Enhancing the canopy



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Sophomore Sean Scofield (left), 19, from Mountainside, N.J., shovels dirt as he and other students and staff plant a tree on Earth Day at The Catholic University of America in Washington April 22. The university planted 35 trees to "enhance the tree canopy of the city."

CORRECTION

In the April 10 edition, student Patrick DePinto was misidentified as portraying Jesus in a photo caption regarding a living Way of the Cross performance at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro April 3. Jesus was actually portrayed by student Andrew Horne in the photo. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 25-26
Diaconate ordination of John Eckert and David Miller
Pontifical College Josephinum, Ohio

April 29 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

April 30 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro

May 1 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

Caring for Carmelites



COURTESY PHOTO BY LINDA BEHR

Carmelite Sister Libby Dahlstrom (right), associate provincial delegate of the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary in Darien, Ill., is pictured with members of the St. Mary, Mother of God Carmelite Community in Sylva March 29.

Pictured are (clockwise from left) Kathy Starr, Jane Sullivan, Delphine Moss, Sister Dahlstrom, Nancy Newsome and Allene Ramsey

Sister Dahlstrom visited the St. Mary, Mother of God community to help foster the continued spiritual ways and structure of the community, which is part of the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, a religious community of men in the Catholic Church.

Lay Carmelites commit themselves to following Jesus Christ according to the charism, traditions and spirit of the Carmelite Order.

Forming Franciscans



COURTESY PHOTO

Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, presides over a profession ceremony Jan. 14, during which 10 candidates joined the Franciscan Family of Greensboro fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The candidates were Gus Bellia, Mary Joan Bellia, Enid Dunning, Barbara Geiszler, Alice Gottschalk, Howard Kelly, Cosmas Robless, Shirley Robless, Kitty Rodgers and Mary Taylor.

The candidates were in formation and discernment for approximately two years prior to their profession to the order. The fraternity now has 42 active members.

Secular Franciscans, a lay group, are a "third order" of the Franciscans. Priests constitute the first order, and brothers and women religious make up the second. Secular Franciscans are called to make a promise to live the Franciscan rule in their everyday life and work.

Franciscans reflect on relevance of charism 800 years after founding

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Approximately 1,800 Friars Minor, Conventual Franciscans, Capuchins and Third Order Regular Franciscans attended an April 15-18 gathering celebrating the 800th anniversary of papal approval of the Franciscan rule.

It was the first time that many representatives of the four main Franciscan branches had come together in Assisi, Italy.

Many activities centered around

or near the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, which houses the Portiuncula chapel — the small church where their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, experienced his conversion.

On April 18, participants traveled south for a special audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The trip recalled St. Francis' pilgrimage to see Pope Innocent III in 1209 to receive approval of his rule of life and formally establish the Franciscan order.

Installing a pastor



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis watches as Franciscan Capuchin Father Martin Schratz (right) accepts his appointment as pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain during a Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church April 2. Capuchin Franciscan Father Remo DiSalvatore (left), pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, serves as a witness.

Nearly 300 people attended the ceremony, including members of Father Schratz's former parish in Florida.

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FROM THE COVER

"The most important thing a seminarian does each day is go into that chapel and pray."

Seminarians prepare with prayer, study

CALLING, from page 1

for life as priests, seminarians also pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

"It (Liturgy of the Hours) brings a discipline to prayer," said transitional Deacon Benjamin Roberts, a member of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville and a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Throughout the hour, the nearly 80 theology division seminarians file in, all clad in traditional clerical cassocks.

"Since we are being formed as priests, in all ways, we begin to live that life as much as possible," says David Miller, a member of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory and seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The [clerical] garb is another way to enter into that," he said.

This morning, Deacon Roberts serves as the deacon during the holy hour and Mass. Deacon Roberts rotates the liturgical duties with the 19 other transitional deacons in his class.

After Mass, the seminarians head to breakfast while some spend extra time in prayer or make last-minute preparations for class, which will start at 8:50 a.m.

"The most important thing a seminarian does each day is go into that chapel and pray," said Deacon Roberts.

Five minutes before class begins, third-year theology students — who are only six weeks away from diaconate ordination — file in for the day's first class, "United States Church History."

The 15 men pull out texts and laptops. Miller sits in the back row. The 75-minute class is both academically challenging and pastorally focused, with topics varying from ecumenism to liturgy to popular piety.

Practice and preparation

After class, the seminarians proceed to the chapel, this time for a weekly practicum on the responsibilities of the deacon at Mass.

By now, Miller has attended thousands of Masses in his life; however this is different — the seminarians must master all of the subtleties of their role before diaconate ordination. Miller will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, along with seminarian John Eckert, by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at the Pontifical College Josephinum, a Catholic seminary in Columbus, Ohio, April 26.

Father Patrick Welsh, dean of men and head of liturgy, instructs the seminarians on posture, which is "not rigidity, but a posture that is formal and sacred."

It is Miller's turn to roleplay. He said he is not nervous of the role itself, "but nervous to be a good deacon." He likened the training to earning a driver's license.

"Driving a car and navigating the road is a whole new experience" than

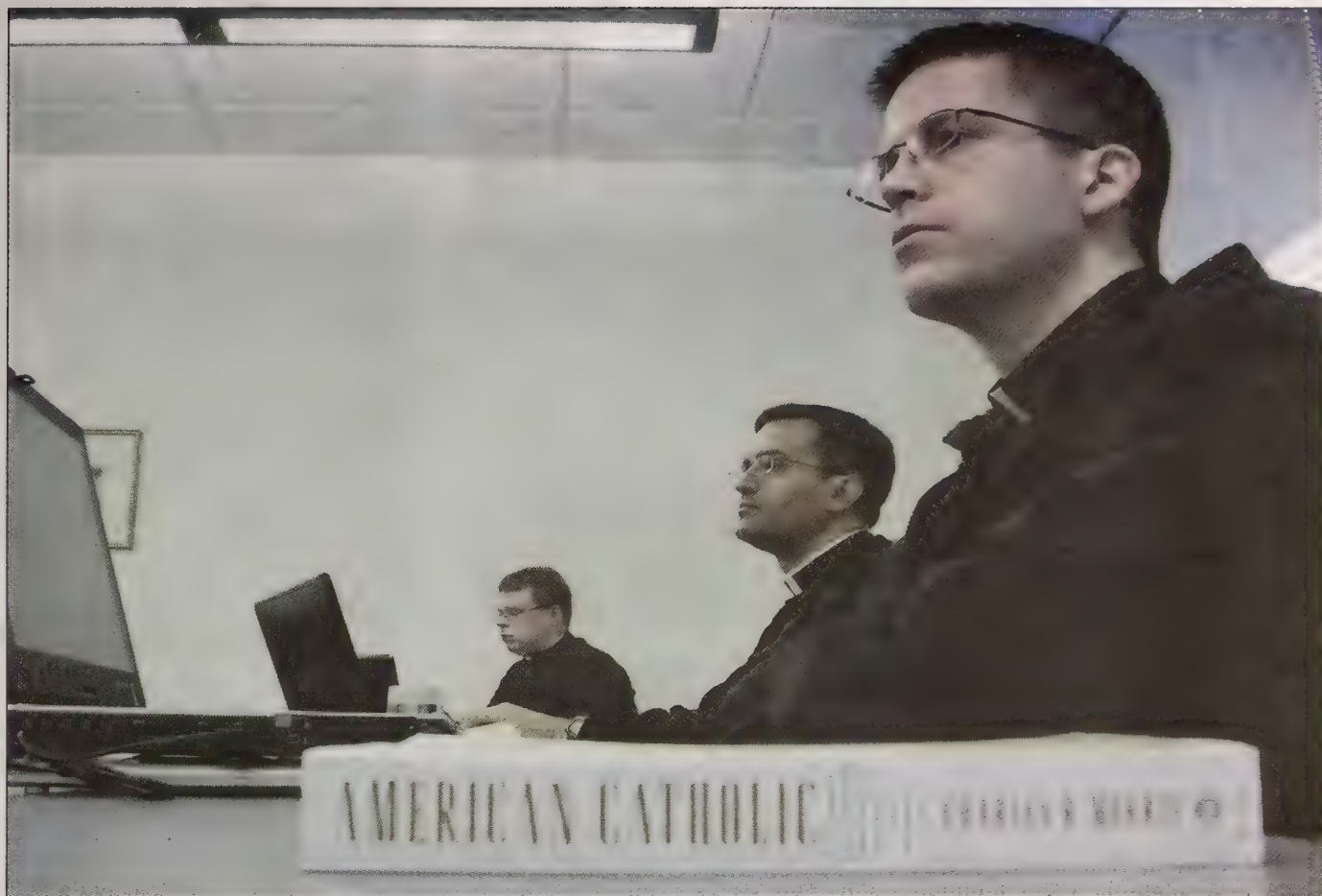


PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

Seminarian David Miller of Hickory remains attentive during class at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., April 1.

riding in the passenger's seat, he said.

After the practicum, the third class period of the day begins. Seminarians have five or six classes per semester, which meet two times per week on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Fridays in the morning.

Afternoons are for study, elective classes, exercise, personal business and preparation for various apostolates. Thursdays are reserved for apostolic work at schools, parishes and agencies around the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Richard Worthington, a second-year theology student and seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, spends this Wednesday afternoon doing lesson plans.

He is teaching moral theology to sophomores at a Catholic high school. Worthington, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, has spent the past several Thursdays on a series of classes explaining the Catholic teachings on marriage, fertility and chastity.

After spending a class giving his vocation story, Worthington said he "taught classes on the problem of contraception."

"I used an approach that started with the premise of beauty ... When contraception is used, the beautiful marital embrace becomes ugly through the trash that we bring into it," he said. "More precisely, one or both of the persons is holding back."

To explain chastity, he said he brought in "some superb chastity educators from Generation Life, [who] delivered a difficult message in a way that was relevant" to the teenagers.

To begin again

Deacon Roberts, Miller and Worthington are all in the seminary's theology division, or the "upper division" of studies.



PHOTO BY MARY B. WORTHINGTON

Seminarians Richard Worthington of Mocksville (seated, right) and Michael Schuetz of the Diocese of Raleigh (seated, left) hear menu options from Msgr. Michael Magee during dinner at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., April 1.

Seminary study begins with two years of philosophical training called "pre-theology," or a four-year college program for those who have not completed an undergraduate degree.

The "lower division" students reside in a separate building with a separate chapel from the theology students.

Each Wednesday, both divisions of men gather in the lower side chapel to chant evening prayer before attending "Rector's Dinner," during which all seminarians and priests gather for a meal and to work on friendships and manners.

Afterward, seminarians are back at their books or in the chapel before retiring usually by 10 or 11 p.m., ready to spend another day in preparation for service of

the church as priests.

"We are men like any others," said Miller of his current role as a seminarian. "We need grace just like others do, although we have a higher calling."

"Seminary is a daunting task because of what it's leading to," said Deacon Roberts, who will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 6.

"Entering takes the same courage that it took Matthew to get up from the tax collector's booth and follow Jesus," he said.

Contact Correspondent Mary B. Worthington at marybethworthington@gmail.com.

Captain's rescue overjoys Vermont parish

CAPTAIN, from page 1

"Our pastor (Father Charles Danielson) also asked everyone to pray for the Phillipses during the Easter morning Mass. We were just so happy to hear the news of his rescue later in the day," she said.

Phillips allowed himself to be taken hostage by four pirates who tried to seize the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama April 7 in the Indian Ocean, in order to keep the crew of the 17-ton ship safe.

He was detained by his armed captors on one of the ship's lifeboats for five days. U.S. naval forces surrounded the small boat, and Navy snipers fired three shots to kill a trio of Somali pirates and free the American sea captain, a Navy commander told The Associated Press April 13.

The fourth pirate, who had been aboard the USS Bainbridge for negotiations about the captain's release, surrendered and could face life in a U.S. prison, the AP reported.

President Barack Obama, who told the AP he was pleased with the rescue, said Phillips' courage was "a model for all Americans."

The White House had authorized the Navy to take action to resolve the five-day standoff.

Father Danielson told CNS he prayed with Phillips' wife privately at the couple's Underhill Center home the day before the dramatic rescue, and spoke to "excited and overjoyed" family members April 12 after he learned the captain was safe.

The U.S. sea captain told news reporters shortly after his rescue that he was not a hero, and praised the Navy SEALs for their efforts in securing his freedom.

Bishop Salvatore R. Matano of Burlington, Vt. — who spoke with a member of the Phillips family April 11 and plans to have a face-to-face meeting with them after they are reunited with the captain — said this ordeal has reminded Catholics all over Vermont how much

they need the peace that Easter brings.

"I'm sure the Phillips family understands that wonderful peace since their horrible ordeal is over," Bishop Matano said. "They realize the peace of Easter and we hope that continues."

The event that unfolded for the family and citizens of Vermont has helped locals focus on tragedies all over the world and reminded them to pray for the safe return of members of the military serving in war-torn regions around the planet, he told CNS April 13.

"It's been a real eye-opener, I'll tell you that," Father Danielson said. "An event like this really humanizes the news. It really brings home that the faces of people in the news belong to real human beings."

"It's someone in your parish, in your community, and we're hoping and praying for the best," he added.

The ordeal has also shown the priest, who has been pastor of St. Thomas Church since last July, that he has a faith community of people who really care about one another, pray for each other and band together in difficult times.

"This is a small community and everyone here has been concerned," Schaeffler said. "Our office has been flooded with phone messages and e-mails from people who have expressed their well-wishes to Capt. Phillips and his family. When things settle down, I'll make sure they get these messages."



CNS PHOTO BY HERB SWANSON, REUTERS

Capt. Richard Phillips of the cargo ship Maersk Alabama kisses his wife, Andrea, upon returning to Burlington, Vt., April 17. The couple's Catholic parish in Underhill Center, Vt., had prayed for the captain's safe return as he was being held captive by pirates off the coast of Somalia. U.S. Navy SEALs freed him in a dramatic ending to a five-day standoff with U.S. naval forces.

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Rev. William McShea	1973
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After the tragedy

Family receives support, encouragement from Catholic Social Services

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

ASHEVILLE — Tasha Roby and John Ledbetter recently made their way into the foyer of the Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office in Asheville.

The office, in a converted home a few blocks from the center of town, is the last place the married couple expected to find themselves a year ago.

Both in their late 20s, Roby and Ledbetter are the well-educated parents of six children, three of whom are 5 years old. The parents planned to buy the home they were renting and build a financially-secure future.

Roby's dream was to return to college and finish her bachelor's degree.

But their hopes and dreams were put on hold when John was seriously injured in an automobile accident. He now suffers from multiple injuries that prevent him from working and require the attention of medical specialists.

While Ledbetter was not at fault in the accident, money from his insurance company and the insurance company of the other driver has not been enough to cover his medical costs.

Additionally, Ledbetter's doctors require upfront payments, but his

insurance company won't process his claims until he has been treated.

Meanwhile, the national economic downturn has affected Roby's employer who, in an effort to keep from laying off workers, has reduced the work week for all employees from 40 to 25 hours.

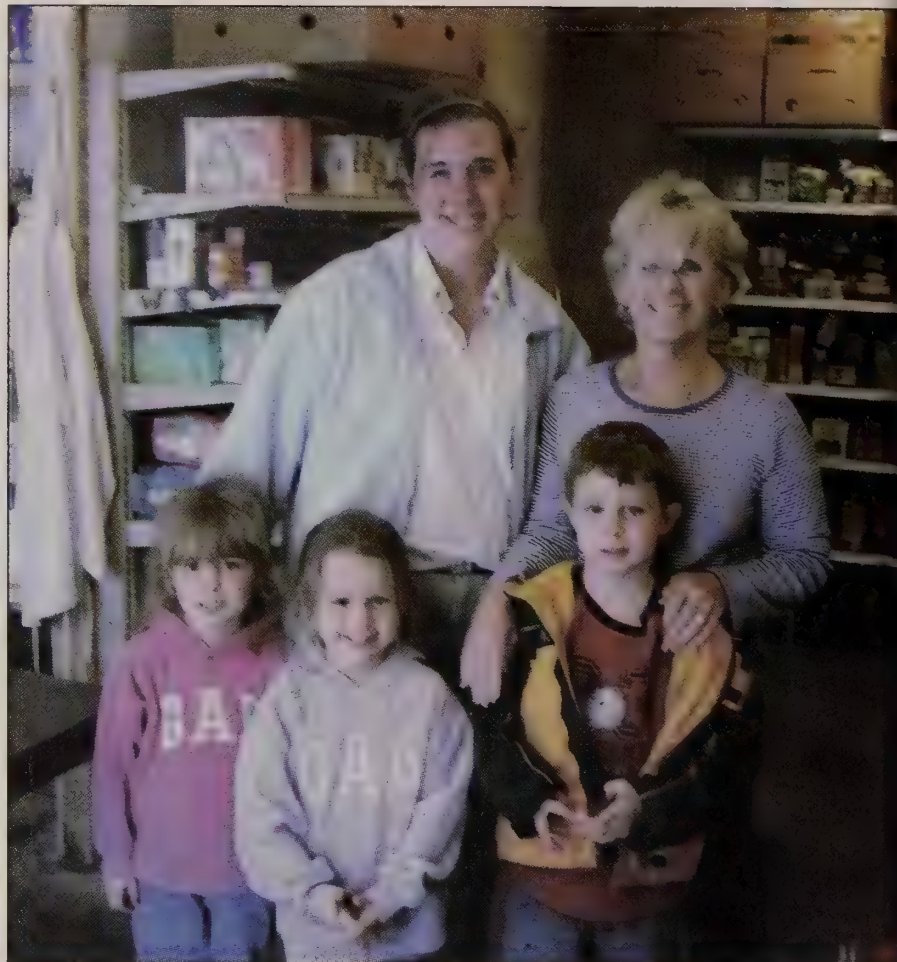
Under the stress of losing their home, Ledbetter's physical and emotional pain and their mounting expenses, Roby and Ledbetter turned to CSS for help.

The family received food assistance, Ledbetter received counseling and the couple left with hope and an understanding that there were people in the community who cared about their needs and could help them find solutions to their problems.

In addition to counseling and food assistance, the CSS Western Regional Office offers adoption and immigration services, refugee assistance and pregnancy support.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office in Asheville, call (828) 255-0146.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diana McCarthy (right), a volunteer with Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office in Asheville, stands with Tasha Roby and her children, Jazmine Blankenship, Jackie Blankenship and Aidan Blankenship, in the office's food pantry April 15.

From despair to hope

CSS provides counseling, assistance with untangling complicated lives

BY ANN KILKELLY

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Editor's note: Some names have been changed for privacy.

GREENSBORO — Life was becoming complicated for "Hope."

Suffering from the stress of work and a bad relationship, Hope found herself slipping into depression — she ate less, avoided friends, felt her world growing dark.

She realized she needed help and sought counseling through Catholic Social Services' office in Greensboro. Soon she began to turn her life around.

"It was good to realize that I am not crazy. I just needed to clarify my own thinking," she said.

"Without counseling, I probably would be miserable still. I would not be where I am now," said Hope. "I am becoming more self reliant and value relationships."

Hope encourages others in need to seek counseling.

"Find yourself and who you are with the Lord instead of being down all the time. It is worth it," she said.

CSS's Greensboro office receives counseling referrals from local parishes,

resource centers and other mental health providers. Counseling is available on a sliding fee scale, so no one who may benefit from the services is turned away.

In addition to counseling, the Greensboro office provides parenting assistance, adoption services, legal immigration and translation assistance, and referrals to community social services.

CSS was a key player in the formation of the Congregational Assistance Network, a coalition of churches and agencies — including Urban Ministry, Salvation Army, the Greensboro Housing Corporation and Department of Social Services — to address the emergency needs of individuals and families in the Greensboro area.

Sandi Hall, a social worker with Gateway Education Center, a nationally recognized school that serves youths with disabilities, worked closely with the CSS office to address the immediate needs of a Gateway client family.

In a letter to the CSS office, she wrote, "I have been most impressed with the professionalism, compassion and tenacity in your work with me and multiple community resources on behalf of this family."

Ann Kilkelly is development director for Catholic Social Services.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Catholic Social Services' counseling services, visit www.cssnc.org/counseling.html, or call:

- in Asheville: (828) 255-0146
- in Charlotte: (704) 370-3262
- in Greensboro: (336) 274-5577
- in Murphy: (828) 835-3535
- in Winston-Salem: (336) 727-0705

COMMENTS ABOUT CSS

"Catholic Social Services has a great working relationship with the staff members at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. CSS offers counseling services and marriage preparation classes for our parishioners. CSS reaches out to the Hispanic community of Greensboro by translating legal documents and assisting the needy wherever possible."

— Father Fidel Melo, pastor
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

CSS data for 2008

The following is a breakdown of services performed by Catholic Social Services:

- 9,101 people received food staples or basic needs assistance
- 5,816 people attended Office of Justice and Peace workshops and other CSS offices' seminars and parish meetings
- 1,725 refugees in the resettlement process were assisted
- 1,147 immigrants sought assistance with documentation and translation
- 902 people participated in pre-marriage workshops
- 582 seniors took part in Elder Ministry programs
- 506 people received counseling for depression, grief, parenting issues and relationship struggles
- 6 office sites are currently operated by CSS (Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, High Point, Murphy, Winston-Salem)

Weathering the storm

CSS food pantries see increased need, donations during economic downturn

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services offices in Asheville, Charlotte and Winston-Salem have been feeling both the burdens and blessings of the national economic meltdown.

The first signs that the needs for the basics of food, warmth and shelter were rising rapidly began appearing in the summer of 2008, as more and more families showed up at CSS food pantries.

In Winston-Salem, the CSS food pantry typically served 100 or so families per month. By January 2009, the number ballooned to 328 families — who were given a total of 962 bags of groceries containing non-perishable canned goods, frozen meat and even fresh products like bread and eggs.

Like all CSS services, the food was given to anyone in need, regardless of the recipient's faith.

Diane Bullard, director of the CSS Piedmont-Triad Office in Winston-Salem, said she faces "an avalanche of need."

During February, the food pantry was completely depleted.

Bullard said many of those in need have never asked for help before.

"We have people who try and access services but don't know how. They don't know what to do," said Bullard. "People also ask to come during off hours because they are embarrassed."

Bullard, her staff and volunteers work to meet those needs and to provide services in a dignified manner.

The CSS food pantry in Charlotte has also seen an increase in need.

"Demand for the food pantry is off the charts. There are days when it takes the efforts of everybody around here to help

meet the need," said Geri King, director of the CSS Charlotte Regional Office.

A majority of the food pantry recipients are refugees — many of whom hail from Asia and Africa and face language barriers at Charlotte's emergency service providers — and Hispanics — many of whom are undocumented and feel safe only when seeking aid from their church.

Jacquie Crombie, director of the CSS Western Regional Office, said much of their outreach is also directed toward Hispanic families.

"Some families face long stretches of unemployment while awaiting deportation hearings," she said.

In February, the Western Regional Office took over operation of a food pantry that had been run for the last 10 years by Diana Riddle, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

The food pantry was struggling to meet the increasing demand of those in need. The week before Easter, the food pantry assisted 155 adults and children.

But all three offices have seen silver linings amid the grim and growing needs.

In Asheville, \$10,000 worth of commercial-grade refrigerators were recently donated, which will allow more food to be preserved. The Western Regional Office also recently received a \$2,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. The money will allow the office to help some families pay utility bills.

In Winston-Salem, Bullard said more people are donating to the food pantry than ever before.

"People have been incredibly generous. They bring food because they know the need is greater," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diana McCarthy, a Catholic Social Services volunteer and advisory board member, works in the Western Regional Office's food pantry in Asheville April 15.

Bullard said she has heard of area children who are asking birthday party guests to substitute gifts with canned food donations to the pantry.

A similar act of generosity will take place on April 26, when Deacon Ben Wenning retires from the permanent diaconate at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Deacon Wenning has asked that parishioners substitute any gifts they were considering giving him with food donations to the local CSS food pantry.

"As Ben has nurtured the parish through more than 20 years of ministry, he will now nurture the larger community with this gift of food," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor.

The Charlotte Regional Office also received a \$40,000 grant from the Levine Foundation and the Foundation for the Carolinas. The money is being used to help

families meet rent and utility payments.

King said the Charlotte office has experienced a welcomed surge in donations of food and clothing, as well as volunteers to help sort and distribute the items. Bullard said the economic times have both hurt and helped bring out the best in people.

"It goes both ways — we see the need and we see that people are really stepping up to the plate," Bullard said.

WANT MORE INFO?

If you need help from or want to offer help to the CSS food pantries, contact them:

- Charlotte Regional Office, Charlotte: (704) 370-3262
- Piedmont-Triad Office, Winston-Salem: (336) 727-0705
- Western Regional Office, Asheville: (828) 255-0146

'Do unto others ...'

Woman channels gratitude into service, operates food pantry for more than 10 years

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

ASHEVILLE — Diana Riddle was suffering from arthritis and degenerative back problems when she received assistance from the Asheville-area conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society 10 years ago.

"They were just such wonderful, giving and generous people," said Riddle, who was so moved by the help she received that she decided to become a Vincentian.

Soon after joining the local chapter, Riddle, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, felt called to open a food pantry that would serve the poor of Buncombe County.

"I had become disabled and had been in a state of poverty for quite a while," said Riddle, referring to her circumstances at the time.

She was about to lose her home

when the Vincentians stepped in and helped her make her payments. "I made up my mind to help give back for what they did for me," Riddle said.

Riddle began operating the food pantry, which served local Vincentian clients and others in need, from her home in Candler. She named the food pantry "Lilies of the Field," from the Bible verse Matthew 6:28.

In that verse, "the Lord tells us that we should live on faith," said Riddle.

As the ministry grew, she was given space in the basement of Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office in Asheville. When CSS moved to a larger facility, "Lilies of the Field" moved into the remodeled garage next door.

Riddle continued to operate the food pantry until February of this year when she stepped down from her position and its operation was taken over by CSS.

"Thanks to the groundwork laid by



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Chmielweski presents a plaque to Diana Riddle during a banquet in her honor in Asheville April 17.

Diana Riddle, the transition was smooth and the poor of the county continue to benefit from this loving ministry," said Tom Chmielweski, president of the Asheville-area conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

On April 17, Asheville-area Vincentians hosted a banquet honoring Riddle for her dedication to serving those in need. A plaque in Riddle's honor was placed in the food pantry.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an international organization of Roman Catholic lay men and women of all ages

whose primary mission is to help the poor and less fortunate. On a local level, the society is broken down into units called conferences.

The conference that Riddle belongs to was formed in 1998 and is comprised of parishioners from the Basilica of St. Lawrence and St. Eugene Church in Asheville, and from St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler.

"The primary focus of the society here in Asheville has been helping families with electric, fuel oil, gas and water bills," said Chmielweski. "We also help with rent, car repairs, bus tickets and food deliveries from the 'Lilies of the Field' food pantry."

The food pantry receives donations of food and money from churches private donors and Manna Food Bank, a private, nonprofit service organization.

"The only money that we have ever received has come from the Catholic community," said Riddle. "Just good Catholic people who want to see it work and help make it work."

Today the food pantry at CSS continues to serve the local Vincentian clients as well as those of the society's St. Margaret Mary Conference in Swannanoa and the clients of CSS.

A refugee's story

Liberian man and children find home in America through CSS

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Life for Saah Foday Kanda became chaotic and dangerous nearly 30 years ago.

Kanda lived in the West African nation of Liberia. Founded by freed American slaves in the 1840s — its capital, Monrovia, was named for the fifth U.S. president, James Monroe — the nation became torn by years of civil war starting in 1980 and by armed conflicts with its neighbors Sierra Leone and Ghana.

Hundreds of thousands died in the fighting. In 1989, as the civil unrest continued, Kanda, who had been a bank loan officer, began working for the international Red Cross — first as a translator and later as a relief coordinator.

Kanda's wife and three children, along with her parents, fled to New Guinea while Kanda continued to work in Liberia, disseminating human rights information.

When Kanda refused to cooperate with a rebel leader in 1994, he was placed on a wanted list — a death sentence in the almost-lawless country. Kanda was forced into hiding.

He escaped to a refugee camp in Ivory Coast where, after much searching,

he was finally reunited with his family. Life in the camp was harsh — the family had nothing but straw to sleep on and were surrounded by misery and sickness with little help from the outside world.

Kanda saw the situation as temporary and as a challenge — he prayed that he would be able to use his experiences to help others in the future.

In the late 1990s, the Kandas began the five-year immigration process to enter the United States. Before it was complete, Kanda's wife suffered a stroke and later died due to lack of medical treatment in the camp.

Kanda and his children had to start the process over, and finally arrived in the United States in 2003.

The Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte provided the Kandas with a home and some food, and assistance with job seeking and accessing social services.

"I once was voiceless, but CSS listened to me and helped me with my needs," said Kanda. "Now I want to do that for others."

By 2005, at 49, Kanda was enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He did not let his age deter his desire for a degree.

"There is no failure in trial. If you never try, you fail," he said.

In December 2008, Kanda graduated

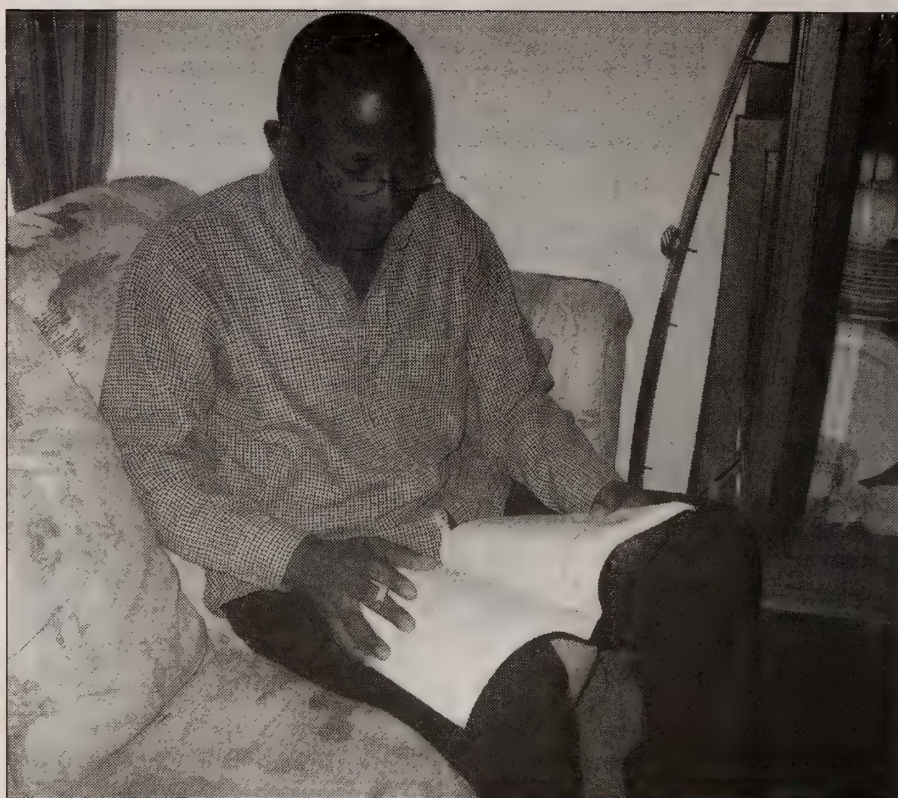


PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Saah Foday Kanda, a Liberian refugee who relocated to North Carolina with the help of Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, reads a school textbook at his house in Charlotte in March 2009.

and is now pursuing a master's degree in international humanitarian law and human rights from a university in Costa Rica.

Eventually he would like to work for the United Nations helping others who are going through what he and his family experienced. Acknowledging the hazards of international social work, Kanda said he is leaving it to God to help work everything out.

"You know when you ask God, he will provide," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on CSS's Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte, visit www.cssnc.org/refugee.html or call (704) 370-3262.

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Marriage preparation (704) 370-3228
Respect Life/Rachel's Vineyard retreat (704) 370-3229
Natural family planning (704) 370-3230

Justice & Peace Office: justicepeace@charlottediocese.org, (704) 370-3225
Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy (828) 835-3535

Refugee Resettlement Office: cssrro@charlottediocese.org, (704) 370-3262

Charlotte Regional Office: csscro@charlottediocese.org, (704) 370-3262
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Adoptions — domestic (704) 370-3262, international (888) 990-4199
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COMMENTS ABOUT CSS

"We have a wonderful partnership with Catholic Social Services. CSS touches our needs through its Elder Ministry programs and marriage preparation classes. At the same time, St. Gabriel Church is blessed with individuals and families who have the ability to respond to the needs that CSS addresses in the larger community."

— Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

"When local parishes work closely with CSS, the agency benefits, the people of the parishes are able to work as a team with CSS professionals, and together we can make a greater difference than would have otherwise been possible."

— Father Brian Cook, pastor
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Some military tales engage the reader, while others have little drama

REVIEWED BY BRIAN OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In "God in the Foxhole," Charles W. Sasser gets the obvious out of the way in the introduction when he notes the adage that there are no atheists in foxholes.

For the following 300-plus pages, he demonstrates the validity not only about nonbelievers in foxholes, but also in tents, headquarters, fields, bombers, ground vehicles and anywhere else military personnel serve during combat.

His style allows readers to elicit their own images and sounds from his well-crafted narratives.

In a section regarding Pfc. Desmond Doss, a conscientious objector seen by some of his fellow servicemen as a coward, Sasser lets the dialogue explain the conflicts and heroism of Doss' role as a medic in World War II.

The author's "You Are There" tone in this piece is indicative of what occurs throughout the book. GIs pinned under fire. Growing numbers of wounded. Doss on the top of a cliff, an easy target for the enemy, hoisting the wounded to safety, praying aloud, "Lord, help me get one more. Just one more."

There's a resurrection theme in many of the tales. The captain who deemed Doss unfit for military service said, "He saved my life. The man I tried to have kicked out of the Army ended up being the most courageous person I've ever known."

In another story, readers meet Sgt. Gene Beck, who survived two tours of duty in Vietnam relatively unharmed, but who was severely injured

in a car accident.

Once Sasser sets the scene in 1982, he takes readers to Beck's Vietnam in 1968, and then back to 1982. The ebb and flow of that and similar stories keep readers engaged. Each section ends with an epilogue.

Cynics might discount stories, many of which have an Audie Murphy thread in them, and that fall into chapters with such headings as "Prayer," "Doubt," "Why Me, Lord?" and "The Unexplained."

Yet, who can explain faith? In many of the stories, there are no logical explanations as to what happened or didn't happen to those involved.

What they do have is a faith-at-work element meshed with patriotism capable of inspiring believers and nonbelievers, hawks and doves.

Where "Foxhole" is a series of engaging stories, "War in the Garden of Eden" reads like a series of military reports — very thorough with its "just-the-facts" tone, but dry.

Although it is Rev. Frank E. Wismer III's account of his experiences and about people he met while serving as a chaplain in Iraq, the stories have little drama. They are good reflections, but for the most part tedious reading.

However, "War in the Garden of Eden" serves a purpose in that it provides a religious perspective on a war whose devastation readers are familiar with. His perspective, while staid, is one that might not be read elsewhere.

Olszewski is executive editor of the Catholic Herald, a publication of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Priest not surprised by Scottish woman's performance on British TV

LONDON (CNS) — The audience snickered and the judges of "Britain's Got Talent" expressed bemused skepticism as the awkward-looking middle-aged woman told them she wanted to be as famous as the popular British actress and singer Elaine Paige. Then Susan Boyle began to sing, and they were spellbound and shocked by the beauty of her voice and rose to their feet in applause.

But Father Basil Clark, who watched the show on television at his home in Broxburn, Scotland, was not surprised.

He has seen the situation unfold many times before, having regularly accompanied Boyle, 47, on the annual Legion of Mary pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Knock, Ireland.

"When I watched the judges' faces reminded me of what I was like when I first saw Susan singing — absolutely blown away by the quality of the singing and by that fantastic voice," said Father Clark, dean of West Lothian.

Boyle first appeared before judges on the ITV1 sister show of "America's Got Talent"; it was broadcast April 11.

Her fame spread on the Internet, and in just five days she had attracted more than 15 million YouTube viewings of her rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream," from the musical "Les Miserables."

Part of Boyle's attraction is that she appears to be such an unlikely candidate for stardom. She said on TV that she has "never been kissed" and has lived alone with her cat since her mother died in 2007.

Boyle has learning disabilities as a result of being starved of oxygen at birth. She is unemployed and, as a churchgoing Catholic, her social life revolves around her family and her parish of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

"In a sense, there is a beautiful voice trapped in this damaged body," said Father Clark. "It is an absolute contrast. There she was on television acting very peculiarly and the audience was expecting peculiar things to happen and then a voice of an angel comes out — and that's Susan."

He described Boyle as "a woman of great faith" who was often "very gentle and very caring."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 3, 2009

May 3, Fourth Sunday
of Easter

Cycle B Readings:

Acts 4:8-12

Psalm 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29

1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Christ is like a shepherd, tending his flock

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Mary was not just a hired hand.

True, she had been employed by my friend Barbara and her siblings to care for their enfeebled father Scott in his last years of life. But caring for the elderly man was more than a job to Mary — not because of any stipulation in her contract, not because she set high standards.

It was simply because of who she was, and who he was to her.

Barbara told me Mary seemed to know what her father wanted or needed before he said so. Indeed, she cooked, cleaned and helped him shave and dress.

But she also attended to more than his physical needs. She knew what foods he liked and prepared them to please him. She knew how to arrange his things to make him comfortable and happy.

She also learned about Scott's past life, his family and what interested him. They talked all day long. She recognized how he felt and helped him deal with his deepest concerns.

In short, her greatest interest was him.

Barbara said that when she came to visit and Mary took time off, she was never gone as long as expected. She preferred to be there to care for Scott. In fact, the only time she spent a night away was when her own granddaughter was sick and needed her.

For his part, although he loved his children, Scott was most at ease when Mary was nearby. Their relationship of mutual caring was gratifying to Barbara and her brothers and sisters.

When Scott died, Mary came to the funeral. Afterward she sat with the family and shared stories about him with his children and grandchildren. She grieved with them.

For Scott and his loved ones, Mary was like the good shepherd described in this weekend's Gospel. He has true concern for each member of his flock and they know he has their best interests at heart. He prefers to be with them.

Because they know they have his unselfish love, they trust and prefer his care.

Far beyond the interests of a normal hired caregiver, Mary chose to give herself over fully to concern for Scott. Likewise, Jesus the good shepherd reminds us that he freely chooses to give his life for our sake.

Questions:

Whose life and concerns do you care for as much as your own?

How does this help you understand and trust Jesus as your good shepherd?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are" (1 John 3:1).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 2

Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter), Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48; **Monday**, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort)**, Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Catherine of Siena)**, Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday (St. Pius V)**, Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday (St. Joseph the Worker)**, Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (St. Athanasius)**, Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3-9

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter), Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18; **Monday**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.



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Ministry awards contest winners

HICKORY—The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte has named the winners of the ministry's first diocesan-wide essay contest for students in sixth- through 12th-grade.

Out of 42 entries, six winners — three in the sixth- through eighth-grade and three in the ninth- through 12th-grade divisions — received cash awards and certificates of achievement from the ministry.

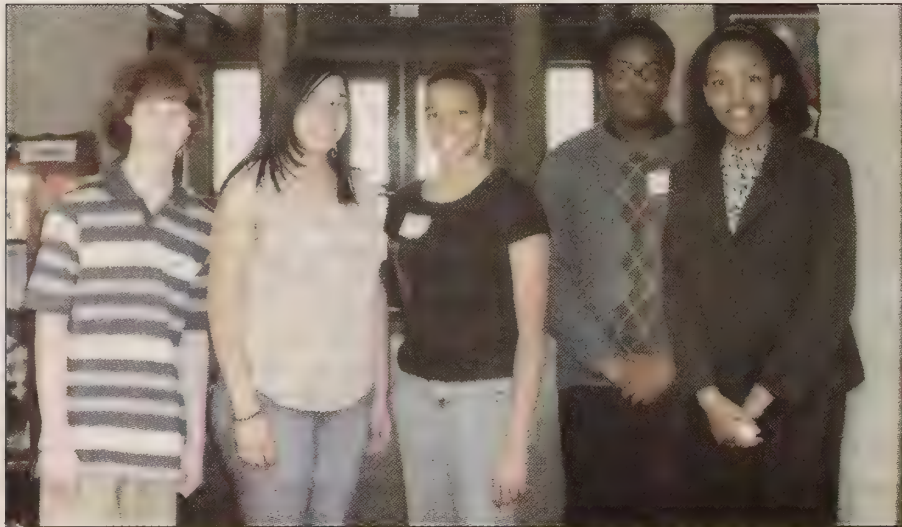
Five of the winners read their essays during the ministry's Family Day of Reflection at the Catholic Conference

Center in Hickory March 21.

Contest participants were required to research and write about either St. Benedict the Moor, Bishop James Augustine Healy or St. Josephine Bahkita. Entries were evaluated by the ministry's contest committee on content, grammar and punctuation.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the African American Affairs Ministry, visit www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html or call (704) 370-3267.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are five of the six winners of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry essay contest during the Family Day of Reflection at the Catholic Conference Center March 21. From left are Sean Thomas, Alexandria Wilson, Bry'anne Robbing, Ebube Okoyeh and Vanessa Okoyeh.

A journey of faith and fun



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of teenagers and adults from the Diocese of Charlotte is pictured outside St. Agnes Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 5, as part of the Sankofa 2009 "A Journey to Freedom and Beyond."

Sankofa is an annual educational awareness program sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. For the past 14 years, Sankofa has offered teens and their families opportunities to explore African American heritage and contributions to the nation and world.

The group of 19 teens and 20 adults visited historic and religious sites in Cincinnati and Covington, Ky., April 4-6.

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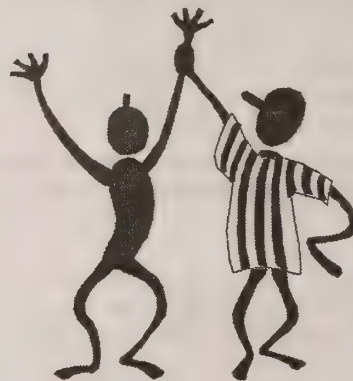
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IN OUR SCHOOLS



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Mark School in Huntersville cheer March 23 as the school receives national honors from the American Diabetes Association for the most money raised by a school in the 2008 National Walk for Diabetes.

School wins national award in fight against diabetes

WALK, from page 1

Walk for Diabetes.

For raising \$52,000, an award from the ADA was presented to St. Mark School in Huntersville by local WCNC weatherman Larry Sprinkle March 23.

Sprinkle served as master of ceremonies at an assembly to kickoff this year's two-week campaign, which culminated with the walk for diabetes April 3.

"I think our school is passionate about the fight against diabetes because in one way or another most families have been affected by it," said Megan Findley, physical education teacher and faculty

coordinator for the event.

"We also have several students attending St. Mark who struggle with diabetes," she said.

The school has participated in the event for the past six years.

Each year, students raise money by collecting pledges from friends, family and neighbors.

Other fundraisers include selling raffle tickets and an in-school "penny wars" competition, in which classes compete to see which one can collect the most pennies.

On the day of the walk the classes take turns covering 45 minute shifts, so that between 8:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. there are always students walking.

Throughout the two weeks prior to the walk, the school teaches the students about the disease and the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle as a means for preventing some forms of diabetes.

"We really use this opportunity to teach the students about making healthy lifestyle choices," said Janis Boone, public relations coordinator for the school.

Another reason that the fundraiser is so popular is because the money collected is used on a local level.

"All of the money raised goes to help kids with diabetes go to Camp Carolina Trails," said Findley.

Camp Carolina Trails is a special camp for kids with diabetes. Along with regular camp activities, such as sports and arts and crafts, campers are educated on ways to manage their diabetes and learn skills to help them become more independent.

The camp also helps them "realize they are normal children because most of the other campers have diabetes as well," Findley said.

For the past three years, St. Mark School has been the highest money-raiser for the National Walk for Diabetes in the Southeast.

This was their first time winning the national title.



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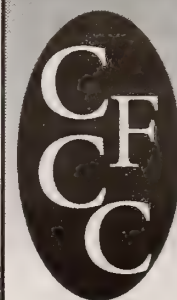
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Lament for Notre Dame

Presidential invite forsakes Catholic identity, causes grave scandal

Any good lawyer has a disclaimer, so here is mine: I love the University of Notre Dame.

My wife received her undergraduate degree there and I proudly graduated from the law school.

My three years at "Our Lady's University" were some of the most wonderful of my life. From the campus' Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and Bookstore Basketball tournament to the House that Rock Built stadium, I love it all.

But my favorite place is the university's Basilica of the Sacred Heart. As a student I served at Mass there every week, including Monday-noon Mass for then-university president Holy Cross Father Edward "Monk" Malloy.

On Sunday nights, I would sit in wonder as the liturgical choir sang vespers in the Lady Chapel. And at the end of each Lent, I would marvel at the beauty of the Triduum celebration. The basilica truly is the heart of the university's Catholic identity.

It is because I love Notre Dame so much that the university's recent decision to honor President Barack Obama as its 2009 commencement speaker, and to award him an honorary doctor of laws degree, has caused me so much pain.

Don't misunderstand — this is not a political position. Rather, it is a moral one; in fact, the most important moral issue of our time — namely, the dignity of life.

As the U.S. Conference of Bishops said in its 2007 statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," the right to life is "the most basic and fundamental right" and "is not just one issue among many."

Obama does not respect this fundamental right. He is unquestionably the most radical, pro-abortion president ever.

Within the first few months of office, he already has approved federal funding for abortions on foreign soil and for research involving the destruction of human embryos.

He has expressed support for the Freedom of Choice Act, which would eliminate all state restrictions on abortion and require the use of U.S. tax dollars to kill the unborn.

The list goes on and on.

By inviting Obama, Notre Dame has turned its back on the most innocent among us.

One of the key lessons I learned at Notre Dame was the importance of the human person in the eyes of the law. The law school's mission statement addresses this by stressing a "commitment to the relationship between law and social justice."

Guest Column

WILLIAM L. ESSER IV
GUEST COLUMNIST

However, as Pope John Paul II said, any outcry "on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and illusory if the right to life ... is not defended with maximum determination."

Notre Dame has now publicly proclaimed that honoring the president for his positions on "racial equality" is more important than standing up for the unborn. As Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend has said, Notre Dame has thus chosen "prestige over truth."

It has publicly rejected the U.S. bishops' 2004 prohibition on Catholic institutions awarding honors to those who reject fundamental Catholic beliefs. In short, it has forsaken its Catholic identity; betrayed its students, alumni and faculty; and caused grave scandal.

Please join me in praying that the university will recognize its error and revoke the invitation. It is not too late.

"For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?" Matthew 16:26.

Thirty pieces of silver is no price for the souls of the unborn. Mary, our mother, tender strong and true, pray for us.

William Esser is a partner at a regional law firm based in Charlotte and a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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It's not only Obama who needs to examine conscience

Surveys indicate abysmal lack of catechization of many Catholics

The alarm, criticism and concern surrounding the choice by the University of Notre Dame of President Barack Obama to be its commencement speaker overwhelms a much more serious matter.

As the Obama flap captured the headlines, the release of a Gallup poll should be of equal — or greater — concern, for it deserves as much attention for its long-lasting impact: the abysmal lack of catechization of many Catholics.

Gallup's 2006-2008 Values and Beliefs surveys indicate that fewer Catholics in the United States believe in the Catholic position on a number of moral issues than do non-Catholics.

Critics of the Notre Dame selection of the president to receive an honorary degree and deliver the commencement address say his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem cell research makes him an inappropriate choice for a Catholic university.

The controversy reached such a point that the superior general of the Holy Cross order, which founded Notre Dame, sent a letter from Rome to Obama, asking him to rethink his position on abortion and life issues.

Father Hugh W. Cleary asked the president to "rethink, through prayerful wrestling with your own conscience, your stated positions on the vital 'life issues' of our day, particularly in regard to abortion, embryonic forms of stem-cell research and your position on the Freedom of Choice Act."

Certainly it is a worthwhile invitation to an examination of conscience — and one that should be extended to all Catholics in the United States. There should be as much concern about what Catholics believe as what Obama believes.

One defuser would be to make clear that the university is providing a locus for a speech by the president of the country but avoiding any indication of approving his views by not awarding him an honorary degree.

As arguments swirl about what his appearance connotes, consider this: The Gallup poll revealed 40 percent of Catholics found abortion morally acceptable compared to 41 percent of non-Catholics.

Even without comparison to non-Catholics, the Catholic score on moral acceptability of various issues is atrocious.

Here are the percentages of what Catholics find morally acceptable: having a child out of wedlock, 61 percent; divorce, 71 percent; premarital sex, 67 percent; embryonic stem cell research, 63 percent; the death penalty, 61 percent.

Little comfort can be taken in believing that those figures are diluted by the "twice-a-year" Catholics.

Gallup distinguished regular churchgoing Catholics and non-Catholics

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



from nonregular churchgoing Catholics and non-Catholics.

Of weekly church attendees, 24 percent of Catholics found abortion morally acceptable, 53 found embryonic stem-cell research acceptable, 53 percent found premarital sex acceptable and 48 percent felt having a baby out of wedlock was acceptable too.

To paraphrase the warden in the movie "Cool Hand Luke": "What we have here is a failure to catechize."

In commenting on the implications of its findings, the Gallup organization said: "Catholic leaders' objections to the Obama situation could themselves be at least partly a reflection of the leaders' awareness of and concern over the fact that in today's contemporary American culture, there is little differentiation between Catholics and non-Catholics in terms of adherence to conservative Catholic church positions on moral issues."

Father Cleary's invitation to "rethink, through prayerful wrestling with your own conscience, your stated positions on the vital 'life issues' of our day" should be extended beyond President Obama.

One critic of Notre Dame officials said they "didn't understand what it means to be Catholic."

Unhappily, that criticism appears to be too true for too many Catholics.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

It is evident that action on the important issue of defending unborn human life must proceed along various fronts simultaneously.

Public outcry over Notre Dame's decision must be accompanied by ongoing catechesis in our parishes, public witness by the entire Catholic Church and involvement in the political process in order to promote a culture that protects the sanctity of unborn human life.

The problem of the lack of respect for the right to life of the unborn is so serious in our society that this multi-front approach is essential.

This is a task for laity, clergy, religious, parents and teachers — in short, for everyone.

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis
of Charlotte

Oz pulls back the curtain

Embryonic stem cell research advocates put politics, money ahead of sound science

"Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain," mutters the ordinary man posing as the great and powerful Oz in the classic movie "The Wizard of Oz."

This scene recently became reality on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" when Oprah's star doctor and regular guest, Dr. Mehmet Oz, appeared alongside actor, Parkinson's disease victim and embryonic stem cell research proponent, Michael J. Fox.

As Dr. Oz explained how Parkinson's disease affects the brain, he broke from Fox's normal talking points by embracing scientific integrity and said:

"I think, Oprah, the stem cell debate is dead, and I'll tell you why: The problem with embryonic stem cells is that embryonic stem cells come from embryos, like all of us are made from embryos, and those cells can become any cell in the body, but it's very hard to control them and so they can become cancer."

Oz then informed the stunned Fox and Winfrey that with recent advances in adult stem cell research, including the use of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells (embryonic-like stem cells reverted from their adult state), Parkinson's

disease may be cured in the next decade.

Unfortunately, Dr. Oz is not entirely correct: cures can be expected but the debate over destroying embryos in medical research is not dead. It should be, however, for many important reasons.

After decades of research transplanting embryonic stem cells in animal models, no disease has been treated successfully.

In contrast, evidence of more than 73 diseases and conditions successfully treated with adult stem cells continues to build.

Yet many researchers continue to conduct, and more to advocate, destructive embryonic stem cell research, putting politics, research contracts and job security ahead of sound science.

Scientists who pursue embryo-destructive research despite the noteworthy successes with adult stem cells violate the rights of their week-old human victims by taking their lives.

They also fail in their responsibility to the millions awaiting effective treatments for a vast array of diseases and conditions.

Of course, even if embryonic stem cell research produced successful

Life Issues Forum

MARY E. McCLUSKY
GUEST COLUMNIST



treatments, the Catholic Church could never advocate its use because it destroys a human person in his or her first week of life.

Each of us began life as a human embryo, and we are, as the Declaration of Independence acknowledges, "created equal" and possess a God-given right to life.

Every child deserves to be conceived and protected within the shelter of a husband and wife's loving embrace.

The fictional Wizard of Oz lacked the courage to be honest with the Emerald Kingdom, but the real Dr. Oz courageously threw back the curtain on false promises.

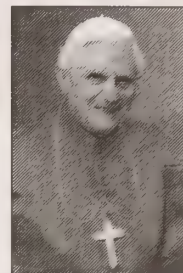
Let us pray that others in the medical profession and scientific community will have the heart to embrace intellectual honesty and advance cures that we can all live with.

McClusky is special projects coordinator at the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Pope says greed — the root of all evil — triggered economic crisis

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Greed lies at the root of all evil and is the source of the current global economic crisis, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It is precisely greed that insinuates to us that having is the highest good" in life and yet it is greed that distorts the purpose of material goods and destroys the world, he said April 22 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope's catechesis dealt with early Christian writers of the East and West, and his talk focused on a little-known, eighth-century Benedictine monk, Abbot Ambrose Autpert.

This French-born abbot lived during a time marked by strong political tensions, nationalism and tribalism, which affected life within the monasteries, he said.

The pope said Abbot Autpert wrote a very popular treatise titled "Conflict Between the Vices and the Virtues" as a way to help his monks combat temptation and face their daily spiritual struggles.

"For each of the 24 vices threatening the soul, he indicated the corresponding virtue that would help the Christian overcome temptation," said the pope.

The abbot taught that greed is the root of all the vices, he said.

"I underline this because in light of the current worldwide economic crisis it reveals itself as being (a) timely (message). We see that this crisis arose precisely from this root of greed," he said.

Abbot Autpert foresaw that the wealthy and the powerful would defend their way of life, saying they were not monks and therefore were not obligated to follow the austere life of an ascetic, the pope said. The abbot said their excuse was valid, but he explained that God offers humanity just two paths and two doors in life: a door that is narrow or wide and a path that is steep or easy, the pope said. God did not point to a third way that was both easy and led to salvation.

"There are many different ways to live, but people, including the rich, must fight against greed, against the desire for appearances, and be against the false sense of freedom," which leads people to think whatever they desire is at their disposal, he said. Everyone, rich and poor, "must find the right path of truth, of love and therefore of the principled life."

The ascetic lifestyle of contemplative religious does not reflect a disregard for the world, creation and beauty, he said.

That would reflect "a disregard for the false vision of the world greed presents to us" and distort "creation and destroys the world."

Spirituality of adults: What is it, exactly?

Joy is living out God's love in everyday life

As winter was coming to an end, I felt it was time for my days to have an infusion of what I simply call "something sunny."

Then I saw an ad in America magazine for a program at Wisdom House, a retreat center not far from where I live.

Elizabeth Dryer, a professor at Jesuit-run Fairfield University in Connecticut, was scheduled to give a program on "Spirituality for Catholic Women."

I signed up. But first I bought her book, "Making Sense of God: A Woman's Perspective."

I immediately knew I was in the right place when I read that "spirituality is the joy of falling in love with God and living out that love in everyday life."

That sentence was something worth meditating on!

At the program, I sat down next to two lovely women, Felicia and Barb, surprised to learn that they lived in my own town and are members of a former parish of mine.

We were actually neighbors!

Felicia and Barb were sponsoring a "ministry of mothers" meeting on Friday mornings. They invited me to join them when I could, which I did a week later.

It was a joyful encounter!

Felicia, a mother of teen triplets, spoke of their mothers ministry as having

evolved into a meeting of "companions who share a grounding in faith and a commitment to see all of our life experiences through ministry."

She added, "Now we have re-fallen in love with God."

Barb said, "Our moms ministry has given us the strength to survive what life throws at you all the time."

I cannot justly describe the joy that was in that room, but I knew the source of it.

Often I've been reminded by my Catholic teachers that, where two or three are gathered in his name, God — the source of all joy — is in their midst!

Another book I was reading that week also gave me a spiritual boost.

In "Listening to God's Word," award-winning Catholic author Alice Camille explains in her introduction that her book is "to facilitate that holy crossing from the world of the Bible to the world in which we live and move and have our being."

And she adds a truth as only someone deeply immersed in the study of our religious history could:

"If our citizenship in the reign of God does not influence our citizenship in this world, we may well be holding a false passport."

Camille begins her book by telling of a time when she suffered from a

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



depression she said she couldn't shake.

She asked God "testily": "So what do you want from me?" and told him, "Forget happiness. ... I'd settle for meaning. I long for a reason to do something, anything," to get away from the future that "yawned so empty."

What she learned is that "God works in mysterious ways." She picked up a dust-covered red Bible and read it "from cover to cover."

Her life was changed, and she has ever since affirmed: "We need the Bible. We need it not just as a record of salvation history, but for the sake of what we might call salvation present."

Nothing is better "for the God seeker to read" than this book, she affirms, for it is the story of God's journey and ours.

Camille's book is in a series called "Catholic Spirituality for Adults."

These experiences I've just shared have told me that it truly is about time that spirituality for adults continues to make good headway in our church!



COURTESY PHOTO

Students perform a re-enactment of the Last Supper and Way of the Cross at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem April 8.



COURTESY PHOTO

Zeth Garcia, 21, portrays Jesus during a "Via Crucis" (Way of the Cross) performance at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington April 10. The performance April 10 and April 12 was enacted by the parish's Hispanic youths and adult volunteers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-grade students and their parents of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem celebrate a Passover Seder meal April 7. The meal has been organized for the past nine years by fifth-grade teacher Jean Degan in an effort to impart ecumenical understanding and to have greater appreciation of Christian-Judaic roots and how they fit into today's church. On April 8, a Seder meal was held for candidates and sponsors participating in the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SHEPHERDING CHANGE, ONE PASTRY AT A TIME



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA J. FRASER

Volunteer Meghan Hurley, 23, of Medford Lakes, N.J., takes an order from a customer at the Good Shepherd Bakery in Cusco, Peru, March 24. The bakery, started 10 years ago by Good Shepherd nuns, financially supports the education of its young Peruvian waitresses.

Good Shepherd-run bakery opens doors for Peruvian women

CUSCO, Peru (CNS) — It's midmorning and the Good Shepherd Bakery is bustling. Customers sip coffee and snack on pastries served by teenage girls in spotless aprons. Most do not know that each purchase puts the waitresses a little closer to finishing their education.

"We educate with just the bakery," said Good Shepherd Sister Irene Roman Aranibar. "Every customer who comes in is a benefactor."

All income from the bakery, which the sisters started 10 years ago in this tourist center, is used to support the 20 young women who have come from remote rural areas to finish their studies.

For the past year and a half, Meghan Hurley, 23, a Good Shepherd volunteer from Medford Lakes, N.J., has worked with the young women in the bakery, helping them with their studies and lending a friendly ear.

Hurley's mission vocation was sparked while at Cabrini College in Philadelphia. An internship at Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, was followed by a six-month volunteer stint in rural El Salvador.

"I learned so much," she said. "It taught me about myself and what I wanted to do with my life. I really liked the cross-cultural experience and the chance to help people develop themselves and get out of poverty."

She also discovered that change comes slowly and cannot be driven by outsiders. "You have to go and listen to what people really need," she said. "Sometimes it's not what you do, but the relationships you build."

An emphasis on building cross-cultural relationships and understanding was one of the things that attracted her to the Good Shepherd volunteer program.

"You come (to another country) and don't know anything. You have to start

from the bottom," she said.

Young women in rural areas around Cusco, in Peru's southern highlands, face many difficulties. Some are lured to the city with offers of work in hotels or restaurants, but end up virtually enslaved by employers who invent reasons to withhold much of their pay.

For others, waiting tables in bars or restaurants is the first step into prostitution. Girls as young as 12 and 13 have been found in brothels in Cusco, where tourism drives the sex trade. Drugs, street crime and gangs are other risks for young people arriving in the city from rural areas.

Amid the problems, Sister Aranibar sees the Good Shepherd Bakery as a beacon of hope, although it cannot reach all the young women who need assistance. The bakery takes in females ages 14-20 and helps them learn marketable skills.

"We'd like to be able to accept more, but we don't have the capacity and the cost is high," Sister Aranibar said.

Income from the bakery and coffee shop does not always stretch to cover the girls' expenses. Nevertheless, Sister Aranibar said, "We never lack the Lord's providence."

When Hurley returns home in November, she said she will look at international issues differently.

People in the United States "need to think more about how their actions affect people here," she said. "It's not just politics. (Things like) what you buy, where you go to dinner affects people here more than we ever realize. I don't think people realize where their clothes come from or where their coffee comes from. But the people here know."

Despite the difficulties, she recommends volunteer programs like hers for laypeople her age.

"It's a growing experience and a learning experience," she said. "If you're thinking about doing it, do it."

Cardinal urges House members to co-sponsor Pregnant Women Support Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Whatever their position on abortion, any House members who agree that "no woman should ever have to undergo an abortion because she feels she has no choice" or alternatives should co-sponsor the Pregnant Women Support Act, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The legislation "provides an authentic common ground, an approach that people can embrace regardless of their position on other issues," said the cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in an April 24 letter to House members.

"An abortion performed under ... social and economic duress meets no one's standard for 'freedom of choice,'" he added.

The bill provides "many kinds of life-affirming support for pregnant women and their unborn children," Cardinal Rigali said, adding that it "reaches out to women with a helping hand when they are most vulnerable, and most engaged

in making a decision about life or death for their unborn children."

The Pregnant Women Support Act would include providing grants to support centers offering alternatives to abortion; assisting colleges and universities in providing support for pregnant and parenting students; increasing support for adoption programs; and requiring abortion facilities to get informed consent, including providing information about alternatives to abortion.

Cardinal Rigali praised the legislation for not raising "the entirely separate issue of seeking to reduce pregnancies through government promotion of contraceptives."

"That issue raises serious questions regarding priorities in health care as well as the conscience rights of patients and health care providers, which demand a serious debate of their own," he said. "In the meantime, pregnant women need our assistance now so that abortion is not promoted to them as their only choice."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A parish retreat featuring guest speaker Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., May 24-27, each evening at 7 p.m. Topics covered will include "To be born again," "The healing love of Jesus," "The call to be church" and "Our response to the call." The retreat is free and open to the public. For more information, call Deacon Roland Geoffroy at (704) 289-2773, ext. 240.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Upcoming dates are May 11 and 25. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088, ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — The 66th semi-annual rosary rally will be held May 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road, East. This 33-year tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. The

homilist will be Father Brandon Jones. Children ages 7-17 who have received their first Communion are invited to participate in the procession. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — A special concert performance by Father Stan Fortuna will be take place at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., May 3 in the church at 7 p.m. Once a professional bass guitarist, Father Fortuna is a member of the Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx, N.Y. From traditional hymns of praise to jazz, reggae and rap, Father Fortuna proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a spiritual energy that appeals to all ages. For more information about the concert, contact the church office at (704) 549-1607.

CHARLOTTE — A band concert will be held at Holy Trinity Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., May 17 at 2 p.m. For more information, contact David Shoff at (704) 906-9633 or e-mail dshoff@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — All adults are invited to attend the *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, May 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parish center gym. Join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere. There is no charge, however, donations are accepted. To reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy at (704) 400-2213 by May 22.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be May 16 on the topic, "Nostalgia for God: Return." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A *Men's Night of Reflection* will be held at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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MAY 1, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 25

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope meets Britain's Prince Charles, duchess of Cornwall

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On a European tour to promote ecological initiatives, Britain's Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, met April 27 with Pope Benedict XVI.

The three spent 15 minutes speaking privately before the prince introduced members of his entourage and exchanged gifts with Pope Benedict.

The pope gave the prince a set of medals marking the just-entered fifth year of his pontificate and an etching of St. Peter's Basilica from the 1500s.

Presenting his gift to the pope, Prince Charles said, "I don't know that these will be of any help to you."

The gift was a set of 12 dessert plates with paintings of flowers grown at his Highgrove Estate.

The plates are part of a collection of items the prince sells at his Highgrove shop to raise money for charity.

"Thank you very much," the pope

said after receiving the plates.

The prince and the duchess of Cornwall also gave the pope an autographed photo of themselves.

Prince Charles, along with his first wife, the late Princess Diana, met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in 1985. He postponed his 2005 marriage to Camilla Parker-Bowles in order to attend Pope John Paul's funeral. As Pope Benedict walked him out of the library April 27, Prince Charles was overheard to say, "Such a wonderful man; we miss him terribly."

In a statement issued after the meeting, the Vatican said, "The cordial discussions provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on certain questions of mutual interest, including the human promotion and development of peoples, environmental protection and the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue for furthering peace and justice in the world."

Holly Rd., in Grace Auditorium on the 3rd floor of St. Leo Hall, May 3 at 7 p.m. Featured speakers will include Legion of Christ Father Todd Belardi, Formation Director for Pinecrest Academy Boys School in Atlanta, and Peter Freissle, President of Polydeck Screen Corporation which provides screening equipment to the mining industry. Father Belardi will speak on the topic "Faithful Catholic Fathers and Their Children." Freissle will speak on the topic "Christian Values in the Workplace." For more information, call Matt Ferrante at (410) 507-4329. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Mass of thanksgiving and celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima will take place May 13 at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. Participating priests will include Father John Putnam (homilist), Father James Ebright, Father Conrad Kimbrough, Father Richard DeClue and Father Christopher Roux. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Mass following at 6 p.m. For more information, call (336) 765-1815.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet at 7 p.m. May 7 in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., has restarted its reemployment support group. The next meeting will be May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in room 9 of the Parish Life Center. For more information, call Colleen at the church office (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and discussion in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start a month-long program on the Book of Joshua May 5. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — There will be an Estate Planning Seminar in Helfrich Hall at Sacred Heart Church, 128

North Fulton St., May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Ministry Center. The seminar is free and light refreshments will be served. RSVP to Sharon Burgess at (704) 633-0591 to reserve your place.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad get together on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open for fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or e-mail katie.knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — Theological Tuesday, an evening with Father Herbert Burke, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, will take place May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Father Burke is the author of "A Scriptural Catechism" and "The Rosary is the Answer." His unique style and humor will inform and challenge you to better know Christ, through Mary, and to live your friendship with him. For more information, contact Mary Beth Young at yrmariybeth@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — An open house at Our Lady of Mercy School, 1730 Link Rd., will be held May 4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. To arrange for a student led tour of the school, call (336) 722-7204. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ourladyofmercyschool.org.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 3 (1 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

May 7 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

May 8 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Holy Angels Church, Mount Airy

May 9 (10 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Good Shepherd Mission, King

LCWR officers meet with Vatican officials, including Cardinal Levada

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Four top officers of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious met at the Vatican in late April with the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who had ordered a "doctrinal assessment" of the group's activities.

The president, president-elect, past president and executive director of the organization of superiors of most of the women's religious orders in the United States met April 22 with U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation.

They also met April 24 with officials of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, said Sister Annmarie Sanders, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and LCWR director of communications.

The leaders, who had been planning their Vatican visit before they learned of the doctrinal investigation, also met with officials of the Congregation for Eastern Churches and the pontifical councils for Justice and Peace, Migrants and Travelers, and Interreligious Dialogue.

In a Feb. 20 letter, Cardinal Levada informed the LCWR about the

investigation, which will be headed by Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, a member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said Cardinal Levada asked Bishop Blair "to undertake in the coming months a study regarding doctrinal problems that have presented themselves in the area of female religious life in the United States."

The doctrinal assessment was presented as a follow-up to a 2001 meeting between LCWR leaders and officials of the doctrinal congregation. At the 2001 meeting, the women religious were asked to report on "the initiatives taken or planned" to promote acceptance of Vatican teachings on "the problem of homosexuality," the ordination of women to the priesthood and the 2000 declaration "Dominus Iesus."

A statement issued April 23 by the four LCWR officers who were in Rome did not mention any of the subjects discussed with the Vatican officials.

The members of the conference, which is based in Maryland, represent about 95 percent of the 67,000 women religious in the United States.

Morin in Mississippi



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK J. METHE, CLARION HERALD

Bishop Roger P. Morin raises the host during his Mass of installation April 27 in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral in Biloxi, Miss. He became the third bishop of Biloxi.

Sebelius confirmed, sworn in as Health and Human Services secretary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate confirmed Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by a 61-35 vote April 28 and she was sworn in to the post hours later.

During the Senate debate, Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who is Catholic, attributed the delay in confirming Sebelius to "petty politics" and praised the Obama administration for its commitment to base department decisions "on the best available science, not the political ideology of the moment."

But Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., expressed fear that the health care reform plan promoted by President Barack Obama and Sebelius would lead to a government-run health system and

reduce consumer choice.

Sebelius, who is Catholic, has drawn strong criticism from Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., who said in 2008 that she should not present herself for Communion until she publicly repudiates her support for abortion.

The archbishop said his decision was based on Sebelius' "30-year history of advocating and acting in support of legalized abortion."

Even before Sebelius' nomination was formally announced in early March, a group called Catholics for Sebelius launched a Web site touting the governor's Catholic background and her actions in support of "the common good."

A knightly celebration



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville are pictured April 18 during an event at the Royal House Catering and Banquet Facility to celebrate the council's 25th anniversary. The event included the presentation of awards and honors earned by members of the council.

Pictured (from left) are Fred Schaefer; Thurman Dubose; Al Livelsberger, founding grand knight; Guy Harley, current grand knight; Ed Beiles; Dick Meyer; Tom Malechuck; Tony Petite; and Phil Lamendola.

Keeping expenses in check



COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus District Deputy Marshall Perry (center) and Grand Knight Glen Marino of St. Pius X Council 11101 in Greensboro present a check to Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, during a men's spirituality Lenten retreat at the center Feb. 28. The money will be used to assist in defraying expenses at the center.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

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Charitable recognition

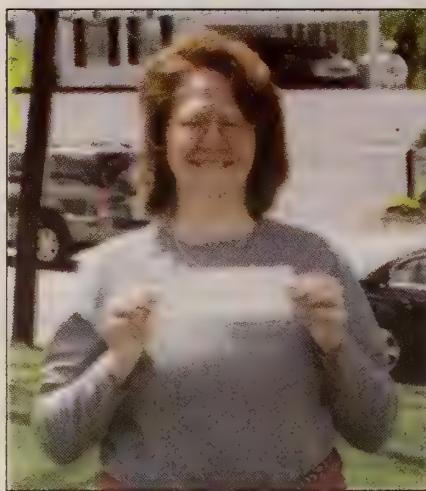


COURTESY PHOTO

Herb Pennington, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 8509; and Carol Pennington (right), a member of the Columbiettes at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville; present checks April 3 to Elizabeth Hedgecock, development and public relations director of Room at the Inn of the Carolinas. At the Knights and Columbiettes fourth annual recognition dinner Jan. 24, during which outstanding parishioners were honored, Marlene Dubose received the "Dave Reinhart Humanitarian" award, Bob Garlow received the "Parishioner of the Year" award and Carlos Russo received the "Junior Achiever of the Year" award.

The winners received \$200 donations toward the charity of their choice, and all three selected Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, which assists homeless, single pregnant women and their children.

Funds for a special family



COURTESY PHOTO

Melanie Feeney-Lewis, a member of the Columbiettes at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, holds a check for \$1,040 April 3. The money was raised during the Columbiettes' first "soup and salad" fundraiser Feb. 20, and the check was presented to a family in the parish requiring financial assistance for their special-needs child's education.

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FROM THE COVER



CNS PHOTO BY JORGE DAN, REUTERS

Face masks are seen on a man and a statue of St. Jude, patron of desperate situations, during a prayer service outside San Hipolito Church in Mexico City April 28. Most churches in the city remained closed because of the swine flu outbreak. Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City had canceled Masses in the archdiocese April 26.

SWINE FLU SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of the swine flu are similar to those of the common flu and include fever, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, fatigue, lack of appetite, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

WANT MORE INFO?

Continuously updated information about the swine influenza virus is available online from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/flu/.

As swine flu spreads, Mexican cardinal prays

FLU, from page 1

doors in the Metropolitan Cathedral for about 50 people who had been permitted to enter. In his homily, he called on the Mexican people to never lose hope and to assist each another during the crisis. He also prayed to Our Lady of Guadalupe for intervention, noting that she had helped during pandemics four times since 1554.

"We beg for your protection and help for quickly overcoming the epidemic that has affected our nation," Cardinal Rivera prayed. "Cover us with your cloak; free us from this evil."

Later in the day, an image of Christ on the cross — known as the "Lord of Health" — was removed from its spot in the cathedral for the first time since 1850 and carried in a procession around central Mexico City. The "Cristo," as the image is known, has been credited with past miracles, including intervention in an 1850 cholera outbreak.

In Mexico City, as the disease spread, face masks were common, traffic was light and many businesses stayed closed. The swine flu forced the closure of schools, universities, museums and several other tourist attractions throughout the country.

As the United States confirmed the flu-related death of a 23-month-old in Texas April 28 and more than 60 cases of the illness, Catholic bishops suggested ways that pastors could alter the celebration of Mass in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus.

Bishops in the dioceses of Dallas and Austin, Texas, encouraged pastors to avoid Communion under both species and offer only the host. They also highlighted the importance of good hygiene among eucharistic ministers.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, at press time it was up to individual pastors to determine if changes during Mass were necessary in their parishes. At least one Charlotte-area church was encouraging parishioners to not shake hands during the sign of peace and to not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer.

While it remained up to individual bishops to decide whether or not they wanted to make changes to the Mass, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship said in a statement in late April it did not feel that widespread liturgical adaptations were necessary at that time to prevent the spread of the swine flu.

In England, where at least three cases have been reported, the Diocese of Lancaster April 29 published an online booklet called "Sustaining Pastoral Presence: Influenza Outbreaks," with information about the swine flu and preventive measures for chaplains and clergy.

Cases have been confirmed in Canada, Germany, Austria and Israel. Although no cases have been reported in Egypt, the government there announced April 28 that it would begin slaughtering pigs as a preventive measure.

According to the World Health Organization, the swine flu cannot be contracted by eating well-cooked pork products. The WHO's pandemic alert level is phase 4, two levels below a full pandemic outbreak.

No cases had been confirmed in Asia as of April 29.

Initially, New York City's cases were related to St. Francis Preparatory School, which closed the week of April 27 "because of the number of students with flulike symptoms," the school said on its Web site.

"The New York City Health Department is working closely with your school's administration to ensure that measures are in place to provide you with up-to-date information on how to protect yourself from infection," the department said in a note to students distributed by the school.

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FROM THE COVER



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Tapestries depicting five new saints hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica during a Mass of canonization led by Pope Benedict XVI April 26 at the Vatican.

Pope canonizes five saints

SAINTS, from page 1

part of our planet," the pope said.

The pope celebrated the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square April 26, joined by tens of thousands of pilgrims who held up photos or drawings of the saints. Four of the new saints were Italian and one was Portuguese.

In his homily, the pope said the saints' life stories hold valuable lessons for modern Christians. Each of the newly canonized had a special devotion to the Eucharist, and each transformed that spiritual power into social action, he said. The five new saints are:

— St. Arcangelo Tadini, a parish priest from the northern Italian area of Brescia, who preached strongly in defense of workers' rights during the industrialization period of the late 1800s. He organized an association to help factory workers, established a spinning mill to give young girls of the area gainful employment, and eventually founded a religious order of sisters who worked alongside women in the factories.

Pope Benedict said his Gospel-inspired social activity was "prophetic" and is particularly relevant in the current economic crisis. He said the saint taught people that a deep personal relationship with Christ is the key to bringing Christian values into the workplace.

— St. Bernardo Tolomei, who, inspired by his love for prayer and for manual labor, founded a unique Benedictine monastic movement in Italy in the 14th century.

Born in Siena, he was forced by an onset of blindness to give up a public career, and he decided to found a small hermitic community. He later founded the monastery of Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto Maggiore, and died in 1348 of the plague while helping victims of the disease; his burial place, in a common pit, has never been found.

The pope called him "an authentic martyr of charity" and said his service to others was an inspiration to all.

— St. Nuno de Santa Maria Alvares Pereira, a Portuguese army hero in the late 1300s, who, after the death of his wife, abandoned his military career and gave up his wealth to enter a Carmelite monastery. In particular he helped the poor. He fasted in Mary's honor three days of the week.

The pope said he was happy to canonize a person whose faith grew while in the military, a context generally viewed as unfavorable to holiness. It demonstrates that the values and principles of the Gospel can be realized in any situation, especially when they are employed for the common good.

— St. Geltrude Comensoli, born in the mid-19th century, who established a religious institute dedicated to the adoration of the Eucharist. In approving the institute in 1880, Pope Leo XIII asked her to include as part of its mission the education of young female factory workers. Pope Benedict said this connection of contemplative charity with "lived charity" was particularly important "in a society that is lost and often wounded like our own."

He said the saint's life shows that adoration takes precedence over acts of charity, because "from love for Christ died and resurrected, and truly present in the Eucharist, comes that evangelical charity that pushes us to consider all men as brothers."

— St. Caterina Volpicelli, who founded a community of sisters centered on Eucharistic adoration and service to the poor, especially young orphans, in the slums of Naples in the mid-1800s.

The pope said she correctly saw that in order to bring the Gospel to bear on society it was necessary to "liberate God from the prisons in which man has confined him."

The pope said he hoped the new saints would inspire people to witness the Gospel courageously in their daily lives.

Vatican-Israeli commission reports progress

REPORT, from page 1

ruled out the possibility that an agreement could be reached before Pope Benedict XVI makes his Holy Land pilgrimage in mid-May.

The Vatican and Israeli members of a bilateral working commission met April 23 in Jerusalem and reported in a joint communiqué, that "meaningful progress was achieved after receiving a report from a working group."

The commission scheduled another meeting at the plenary level on April 30 and reaffirmed its "joint commitment to conclude the agreement as soon as possible."

Vatican sources said that although there was room for optimism in the talks, there was technically no way to finalize an accord before the pope makes his May 8-15 pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The announcement of the papal visit late last year put "wind in the sails" of the negotiations, said one source, but the

issues have proven too complicated to rush an agreement in time for the pope's arrival in Jerusalem. That was never the aim of the papal visit anyway, the source said.

Both sides have avoided any comment on the substance of the talks, which began in 1999. But knowledgeable church sources said that the issues discussed in the negotiations included:

— Protection of church properties, especially holy places, from government appropriation.

— Restitution of some properties that have been confiscated, including the site of the shrine church in Caesarea, which was expropriated and razed in the 1950s.

— Consolidation and confirmation of historic tax exemptions that have existed for church institutions in the Holy Land.

The sources emphasize that the church needs these exemptions in order to survive, and that they are comparable to tax breaks offered religious entities in the United States.

— Access to the Israeli court system for church institutions whenever property disputes arise.

Vatican, Arab League sign new agreement

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the 22-member League of Arab States have signed an agreement to strengthen joint projects to promote peace and dialogue, especially on political and cultural levels.

The official memorandum of understanding was signed April 23 at the Vatican by Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, secretary for relations with states, and Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the Arab League.

Pope Benedict XVI met privately

with Moussa, a former foreign minister of Egypt, at the Vatican April 24.

According to a Vatican statement, the new agreement "further consolidates the bonds of collaboration existing between the Holy See and the League of Arab States, especially on a political and cultural level in favor of peace, security and regional and international stability."

The agreement also "proposes instruments of consultation between the two parties with attention also to initiatives of interreligious dialogue."

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WOMEN RELIGIOUS



CNS PHOTO BY JERRY NAUNHEIM JR.

Women religious from seven Dominican communities formalize their merger with a service April 14 in St. Louis, Mo.

Seven communities of Dominican sisters merge to form one congregation

BY MARNIE McALLISTER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Seven communities of Dominican sisters formally merged April 12 to form a new congregation called the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The congregation will be based in Columbus, Ohio, home to the former Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, one of the founding communities.

The sisters gathered April 14 for a ceremony in St. Louis to formalize the merger.

"There is a great sense of hope, great energy and great commitment to the mission" among the 265 sisters who gathered in St. Louis, said Sister Joan Scanlon, who has been elected to the new congregation's leadership council.

Her community was the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Ky.

"It is very historic when seven congregations have ended and committed to come together," she said. "We have hundreds of years of ministry behind us."

The new congregation is comprised of Dominican communities from five states.

In addition to the 187-year-old St. Catharine community and the Columbus Dominicans, it is made up of the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima in Oxford, Mich.; the Dominican Sisters, Congregation of Mary, and the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic, both of New Orleans; the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kan.; and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron, Ohio.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace has about 650 sisters serving in 29 states and

in Honduras, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania and Vietnam. The congregation also has about 500 associates — lay men and women who are partners in ministry with the sisters.

More than a third of the Dominican Sisters of Peace attended the first chapter meeting April 15-21 in St. Louis to elect leaders and articulate their mission.

Sister Margaret Ormond, formerly of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus, was elected prioress during an April 19 election. Other sisters were elected to serve as councilors. They will take office Aug. 8 on the feast of St. Dominic.

In the meantime, the former leaders of the founding communities have formed a transition team, said Sister Joye Gros, who was president of the St. Catharine community during the formation of the new congregation.

She said the congregation's leadership will work in central offices located in Columbus. Campus buildings at St. Catharine College, near Springfield, Ky., will also host some offices.

Each of the motherhouses belonging to the founding communities will remain in use because sisters are living there.

In determining how the new congregation will serve the church, the sisters pledged to devote themselves to studying Scripture, promoting nonviolence and justice, and creating welcoming communities.

Sister Scanlon said the work of the newly formed congregation will focus primarily on the Dominican charism "to preach the truth."

"The call to preach the truth and give to others the fruits of our contemplation are at the heart of our Dominican life," she said.

Joining the Sisters



COURTESY PHOTO

Franciscan Sister Joan Ann Gilsdorf (left) and Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott (right), director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte, are pictured with Lourdes Toribio, who was received as a candidate for canonical membership in the Sisters of St. Francis during a ceremony in a chapel at the motherhouse in Tiffin, Ohio, March 20.

Since 2002, Toribio has volunteered in Hispanic ministry in Charlotte and Winston-Salem while discerning her vocation as a Sister of St. Francis. Toribio will minister in Chiapas, Mexico, with Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, a former Hispanic minister in the Diocese of Charlotte, until August, when she will then take formation classes and work with the poor of Mexico City.

Answering God's call to religious life is based on trust, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Embracing a religious vocation is not about feeling worthy or strong enough to be one of God's privileged ministers and witnesses, said Pope Benedict XVI.

It is about trusting God so much that one can answer God's divine call without hesitation, he said in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

"What is asked of those who are called, for their part, is careful listening and prudent discernment, a generous and willing adherence to the divine plan, and a serious study of the reality that is proper to the priestly and religious vocations, so as to be able to respond responsibly and with conviction," he said.

The papal message for the day of prayer, which will be observed May 3 in most countries, was released March 31 at the Vatican. The 2009 theme is "Faith in the Divine Initiative — The Human Response." In his message, Pope Benedict said it is God who chooses some to follow his Son, Jesus, more closely and to put themselves fully at the service of the church.

Answering God's call "is never patterned after the timid self-interest of the worthless servant who, out of fear, hid the talent entrusted to him in the ground," the pope said, citing Matthew's Gospel parable of the talents.

Rather, it is a prompt and "ready adherence to the Lord's invitation," which is rooted in complete trust in God's plan, he said.

The pope acknowledged the "worrying shortage of priests" in some parts of the world as well as the difficulties and obstacles the church can encounter. However, God's children can find strength in their unshakeable faith that God is firmly guiding the church toward the fullness of the kingdom and it is the Lord "who freely chooses persons of every culture and of every age and invites them to follow him according to the mysterious plans of his merciful love," he said.

While God calls some people to special forms of service, all Catholics have a duty to keep God's appeal for vocations to the priesthood and religious life constantly in their prayers.

"We must pray that the whole Christian people grows in its trust in God, convinced that the 'Lord of the harvest' does not cease to ask some to place their entire existence freely at his service so as to work with him more closely in the mission of salvation," he said.

Editor's note: The text of the pope's message in English is posted online at <http://www.vatican.va>.

Heeding the call

Desire to enter religious life a lifelong ambition

On a crisp and cloudy fall day last year, I stood atop the lighthouse in Cape May County, N.J., with my new boyfriend.

The view was limited — all I could see was the retreat center for the Sisters of St. Joseph on the beach below.

I burst into tears.

"I was supposed to be a nun!" I exclaimed through sobs. My boyfriend was shocked, but I was relieved.

Within two weeks, we broke up. I quit my job at a daily newspaper in Philadelphia and I headed back to North Carolina to answer a call that I had been pondering and praying about for about a year; a call that I sensed since childhood — the call to religious life.

I started that year of discernment with a weeklong silent retreat and then went cross-country to visit five religious orders.

At Easter, I heard from a friend's brother about a monastery of nuns that "might move to North Carolina." It took nearly six months to track down these cloistered sisters, who are currently living in Ohio.

Upon discovering their phone number, I called and blurted out to the unsuspecting nun on the other end of the line, "I'd like to enter your convent!"

After I made the required visit, I asked for entrance. When I walked back into the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, gratitude to God and his Blessed Mother overwhelmed me.

Only one obstacle remained: student loans. I had been careful to manage my money well, yet I still had about \$10,000 remaining.

Alas, I had to go back to work and got a job I had wanted since college graduation — writing for a diocesan Catholic newspaper!

So, now at the "top of the game" in my writing career, I was working only to make the money to pay off a loan and quit the job!

It reminds me of all that God calls us to detach from in order to hear his voice and answer his call. Car, clothes, vacations, Facebook — exchanged for a 5 a.m. wake-up call and the floor-length brown habit of St. Clare with coordinating hip-length black veil.

Naturally, my suborned will and pride will be the hardest to forgo. I could clutch to some of it, like my goal of publishing a book one day, but a small voice beckons, "Is it worth your vocation?"

Guest Column

MARY B. WORTHINGTON
GUEST COLUMNIST

"No," I answer.

I'll take none of these things with me when I die, so I'll take none with me when I enter the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration.

For the past eight years, I have been active in the pro-life movement on local and national levels. Through my work, I realized it is prayer that is the most effective means of saving souls and ending abortion.

I never imagined that would lead to a life of prayer in a contemplative, cloistered monastery.

My mission territory will become the whole world. Praying and sacrificing for the salvation of souls — out of love for Jesus, my mystical spouse — is the "work" of a cloistered nun.

The 1999 Vatican document "Verbi Sponsa," the Instruction on the Contemplative Life and on the Enclosure of Nuns, describes the cloistered vocation as "a silent emanation of love and superabundant grace in the pulsing heart of the church."

To young women and men who are considering calls to the religious life, don't be afraid to say "yes" to God first! Don't fall for the pressure of our society to chase other dreams and goals first, especially if they may result in the loss of your soul.

Most religious orders and dioceses accept young people at the age of 18 or 19 to begin formation. And if you're not sure, talk to a priest, or read a book such as "Come and Follow Me" by Father Stefano Maria Manelli, founder and minister general of the Franciscans of the Immaculate.

Please pray for me, that I will be a good and holy nun. Our diocese will be close to my heart!

Mary B. Worthington, a correspondent with *The Catholic News & Herald*, will enter the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration on May 3.

Mercy sister breaks

SISTER, from page 1

engage in theological discussions with students and faculty.

"What brings me light and joy is being in dialogue with Divinity School students on theological issues," she said.

"She makes Catholicism 'user friendly,'" said Ginny Ireland, director of admissions and student services for the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. "She is able to communicate the faith across denominational and cultural lines."

Catholicism is actually the largest denomination represented among undergraduate students on the WFU campus, according to Sister Rivera-Williams. There are approximately 100 to 150 students who attend weekly Catholic campus ministry meetings.

However, within the School of Divinity, the religious representation is predominantly Baptist, followed by Methodist and Episcopalian. Within that realm, Sister Rivera-Williams is definitely the exception.

However, as the only African American sister in the state of North Carolina, she is used to being somewhat of a novelty.

Intrinsic yearning

Sister Rivera-Williams celebrated her jubilee anniversary as a Sister of Mercy during a Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte in 2008.

She believes her calling to religious life was intrinsic, dating back to the time "when I was being formed in my mother's womb," she said.

A North Carolina native, Sister Rivera-Williams was born in Winston-Salem, where she attended Catholic school as a child.

She remembers playing church with her friends in the neighborhood when she was 5 years old.

"There was something in me way back then that was calling me to church ministry," said Sister Rivera-Williams.

"When I look back I can really see God's finger on all of that," she said.

In middle school, she lived across



Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams stands outside for the Divinity School and assistant chaplain at the

the street from the Franciscan sisters who taught at her school, St. Benedict the Moor School, in Winston-Salem.

"There was something really mysterious about them," she said. "I was always curious."

When she was in seventh grade, there was one sister who used to play basketball and football with the students. That was when her perception of women religious began to change. That was when she realized they were human.

When she attended Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem (now in Kernersville), she worked

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WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Old, brings Catholicism to unlikely venue



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

on the Wake Forest University campus in Winston-Salem April 24. Sister Rivera-Williams is a pastoral resident

in the school office and got to know the Sisters of St. Joseph, who ran the school at the time.

During her junior year, one of the sisters asked if she had ever considered a vocation to religious life.

At that point, she still had never seen a black sister.

"I didn't think it was something I could do," she said.

After high school, she attended Sacred Heart College in Belmont. It was there she met Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford.

"Everyone went to her room on Saturday mornings to eat cereal and watch cartoons," said Sister Rivera-Williams. "She seemed so alive, so real. That was the first real experience I had with a Sister of Mercy."

In terms of role models, she said that there wasn't one particular sister who had an influence on her.

However, she does have a deep appreciation for the role of women religious in the history of the church in North Carolina.

"A lot of the workings in the church would not have matured nor manifested had it not been for the sisters," she said.

Eight years after she graduated from college, Sister Rivera-Williams entered the convent of the Sisters of Mercy.

Now, almost 26 years later, she feels confident in her decision to pursue her calling to religious life.

"There is always something in every day that makes me grateful for what I'm doing," she said.

Education and ecumenism

This year marks Sister Rivera-Williams' seventh year on the WFU campus. However, she's been an educator for much of her time as a Sister of Mercy.

She taught religion at her alma mater, Bishop McGuinness High School,



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams meets with Tim Auman, chaplain of Wake Forest University, in his office April 24. In terms of providing a Catholic presence on campus, she said, "I feel that my being here has given people a whole different appreciation for the Catholic Church."

from 1980-1982 and at Charlotte Catholic High School from 1986 to 1996. In 1995, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), which resulted in her having to step down from her teaching position.

"I no longer had the energy to move around," she said.

It was at that point that she asked to come home to Winston-Salem.

She returned to her home parish, St. Benedict the Moor Church, where she served as a pastoral associate.

"I was the first Sister of Mercy to come to the Winston-Salem area," said Sister Rivera-Williams.

While she was working at the church, she began taking a course in clinical pastoral education.

As part of her certification, she served as the weekend volunteer chaplain at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

With her MS in remission, she began teaching a course on the art of ministry at the WFU School of Divinity.

From there, she took a position as a pastoral resident in the School of Divinity, where she served as "a liaison between students and faculty."

Then three years ago, she took the position as assistant chaplain of the university. She said she likes this position because it has provided her with "access and availability to the whole campus," where as before, with her pastoral residency, she was limited to working with the 100 students in the School of Divinity.

As assistant chaplain, she provides spiritual direction and counseling, or what she likes to refer to as "compassionate listening."

"She has a great sense of humor and she is a great listener," said Anne Jones, a first-year Divinity School student. "We all come here and dump our worries on her and we leave laughing."

"She has been a true friend and a good mentor," said Reggie Mathis, a third-year Divinity School student.

"The space she creates with her presence is a wonderful respite,"



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

For Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams making phone calls and responding to e-mails is an important part of her day. As assistant chaplain and pastoral resident for the School of Divinity, she serves as a "liaison between students and faculty."

like "a breath of fresh air," he said.

Powerful presence

There isn't anything typical about Sister Rivera-Williams.

"She breaks every stereotype of a Catholic sister," said WFU's Ireland.

"To witness and to live out the Gospel values, which I think were modeled and articulated by what we can grasp from Scripture," that is the role of women religious in the church today, said Sister Rivera-Williams.

"There is no wrong way, there is no right way," she said, but "I'm constantly striving and hoping that we're doing it God's way."

In terms of her role at WFU, she said, "I feel that my being here has given people a whole different appreciation for the Catholic Church."

In that respect, her presence alone is one of the biggest parts of her ministry.

"You can't change or make an impression on anyone if you leave or walk out," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Bird's-eye view: Children's book portrays personal side of pope

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A new children's book offers a bird's-eye view of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, with insider tidbits on his daily routine and his personal interests.

Published with the Vatican's blessing, it's the latest effort to humanize a pope who may seem a remote figure to many people around the world — and even to some inside the Vatican.

"Max and Benedict: A Solitary Sparrow Recounts the Pope's Day" was released in Italian and German to coincide with the fourth anniversary of Pope Benedict's election April 19. The book's narrator is a sparrow named Max who nests on St. Peter's dome and eavesdrops from the pope's window ledge.

Illustrated with watercolors, the book's 52 pages contain no startling revelations. But its sympathetic tone and its charming array of details provide a portrait of the pontiff that is largely missing from news coverage.

This is a pope who listens to each of his guests with great attention, who strolls through the Vatican Gardens daily with friends and who, in the evening, enjoys a piece of apple strudel before sitting down to play the piano.

Pope Benedict is timid and reserved by nature, something "that can be mistaken for coldness," our narrator informs us. But in fact, he says, the pope has a subtle sense of humor that surfaces throughout the day.

"He's not the type of person who tells one joke after another, but he sees the amusing aspects of life," according to Max the sparrow.

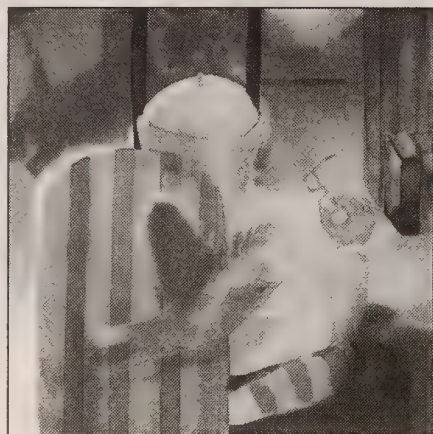
One point hammered home early in the book is that the pope spends most of his day surrounded by people and is rarely alone. That echoes the words of Pope Benedict himself, who twice in recent weeks has rejected speculation about his supposed isolation and joked about the "myth of my solitude."

This seems to be a message the pope and his aides want to get out.

In 2007, the book's author, Jeanne Perego, wrote a similar account of Pope Benedict's election as seen through the eyes of a cat, with the help of the pope's personal secretary, Msgr. Georg Ganswein. The latest book includes a preface by Father Damiano Marzotto, who worked with the pope for 23 years at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"I can say he was a tireless worker, but was above all a likable and cordial person. I hope reading this book will help many people, especially children, to know the pope better," Father Marzotto wrote.

It may in fact be easier for a curious sparrow to track the pope's day than for the thousands of Vatican employees who rarely, if ever, see the pontiff at work.



CNS PHOTO BY DONATA DEL MOLIN CASAGRANDE,
COURTESY OF EDIZIONI MESSAGGERO PADOVA

A watercolor from the children's book, "Max and Benedict: A Solitary Sparrow Recounts the Pope's Day," shows Max the bird narrator eavesdropping on Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

The pope spends most of his time in his apartment or in his adjacent working studio, and access is strictly limited.

The book outlines the pope's average day: He rises at dawn and prays in his private chapel, followed by breakfast. At 8 a.m., he looks at important mail and peruses some daily newspapers, then turns his attention to important documents.

Later in the morning begins a series of private audiences with visiting bishops and cardinals, world dignitaries and various groups. By 1 p.m. the pope is ready for lunch, which is a modest affair, and then he goes up to walk on his private rooftop terrace.

At 3 p.m. he's back at his desk, preparing documents and speeches. At 4 p.m., he takes a brisk afternoon walk with a few aides in the Vatican Gardens where, beneath the chatter of parrots, he prays the rosary and stops briefly at the Grotto of Lourdes at the far end of the gardens.

Then at 5, he returns to his desk to write — these days, he's working on his upcoming second volume of "Jesus of Nazareth." He stops frequently to pull a book from the shelf of his private library.

Later in the evening there are occasionally more private audiences with top Vatican officials. Finally, dinner arrives, and the pope can relax a bit. He watches some TV news, reads a book and plays the piano — "music is his great passion."

The feathered narrator reports that the pope is sometimes baffled by the gifts he receives from visitors and groups, which have included a racing bicycle, a portable pizza oven, a steering wheel from a Formula One race car and a traffic-ticket book.

This is also a pope who loves animals. Presented with four hens at a general audience, the pope now keeps them at his villa outside Rome, where they are presumably safe from culinary dangers.

Editor's Note: Ignatius Press plans to publish an English-language edition of this book in the fall.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 10, 2009

May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-28, 30-32
- 2) 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:1-8

Catholic's actions must be consistent with faith

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When our 16-year-old daughter first earned her driver's license, it was an occasion of great rejoicing on her part and more than a little anxiety on ours.

As we watched her drive away by herself, we realized that she would fully exercise her newfound independence out of the range of our immediate supervision. We had to trust that she was going where she said she would, in the company of persons she knew we would approve of.

When an incident in her senior year of high school tested those boundaries, it took several weeks of responsible behavior for her to prove she was trustworthy enough to regain driving privileges. Even then I had to renew my faith gradually in her integrity, that her future words would be consistent with her actions.

Building, maintaining and sometimes regaining trust applies to other kinds of relationships as well — husband/

wife, employer/employee, friend/friend, public servant/constituent — and it is human nature to be cautious once that trust is violated.

In the first reading, the Jerusalem disciples had plenty of reason to distrust Saul. After all, he had fanatically persecuted other followers of Jesus, and the account of his conversion, while compelling, was not immediately reassuring.

But as Saul "spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord," even to the point of endangering his own life, they were gradually convinced of the truth of his story and the depth of his conviction.

The necessity of visible proof of one's faith in Christ leads the writer of John's epistle to admonish: "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the importance of remaining in him and producing visible signs of his love in the same way that a branch attached to a vine bears much fruit.

Historically, the behaviors of some who have called themselves "Christians" have given humankind many reasons to doubt the validity of their message. Only by fully uniting ourselves with Christ can we love with integrity — thereby regaining the trust of a world that desperately needs to see the evidence and know the truth of God's love.

Questions:

In what way have your actions been inconsistent with your profession of faith? What would help you grow in your integrity as a follower of Christ?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth" (1 John 3:19).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3-9

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter), Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18; **Monday**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10-16

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8; **Monday**, Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday (St. Nereus, St. Achilleus, St. Pancras)**, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Fatima)**, Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday (St. Matthias)**, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Friday (St. Isidore)**, Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday**, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

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Student turned filmmaker tells story of Columbine shootings

BY JOHN GLEASON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DENVER — Filmmaker Andrew Robinson hopes the movie he has made about the shooting tragedy at Columbine High School 10 years ago will have a positive impact on students who see it.

Robinson's film, "April Showers," deals with the violence, death and recovery Columbine's victims went through.

It is a fictional account of an attack on a Midwestern high school and events that take place in the week that follows, as everyone deals with the trauma of loss, being a survivor and trying to make sense of something so senseless.

Robinson was a student at Columbine when, on the morning of April 20, 1999, two fellow students entered the high school in the Denver suburb of Littleton with weapons and began firing on their classmates.

By the time the two youths had taken their own lives, 12 other students and a teacher were dead and more than 20 other people had been wounded.

Ranked as the fourth most deadly school shooting in the United States, Columbine remains the worst mass shooting to have taken place at an American high school. The massacre spurred debate on everything from gun control to violence among youths.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the shootings, hundreds of people gathered at a park near the school to remember the victims with a candlelight vigil.

Robinson's film stars Tom Arnold, Illena Douglas, Kelly Blatz and Daryl Sabara. Robinson, who wrote and directed the film, said the dramatized retelling of what it is like to be a Columbine survivor is a story he just couldn't keep inside.

"Truthfully, this came about by accident," he told the Denver Catholic Register, the newspaper of the Denver Archdiocese, prior to an advance screening of the film for media and school officials in March.

"I didn't intend to write it," he explained. "I was working on another project when it kind of wrote itself. Seventy-two hours after I began, the first draft of the script was finished."

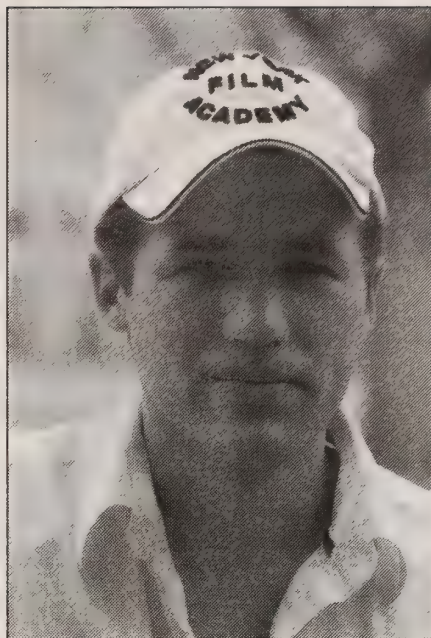
Robinson showed the script to some friends who said it was about time a person with the point of view of someone who'd actually been at Columbine told the story.

"I like to think I was healed enough to write this story," he said. "But what I've discovered is the impact it's had on people outside of Columbine."

"I heard from students who never went through a Columbine-like experience, but who have had losses in their life," he said.

"They're now getting something out of this film; they're opening up to friends and parents about things they've never been able to talk about before. That wasn't what I'd intended but I'll take it," he said.

"April Showers" was released to theaters nationwide April 24, as well as other pay-per-view



CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

Filmmaker Andrew Robinson hopes the movie he made about the shooting tragedy at Columbine High School 10 years ago will have a positive impact on students who see it. "April Showers" was released to theaters nationwide April 24.

digital services.

Robinson said that all of the film's proceeds from the first week the movie is released will be donated to schools in districts where the movie is shown, as will a dollar from every download of "April Showers" online.

"Schools need our help now more than ever and if a film like 'April Showers' can help turn a negative into a positive by shedding light on aspects of a story never told and also give back to the community that supports it, then it's a win-win," Robinson said.

"We want the movie to be a success of course, but we want it to have a positive impact on the students who see it," he added.

Signis awards film prizes at film festival

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Signis, the international Catholic communications organization, has given the Signis Award to a Japanese film, "Departures," at Filmfest D.C., an annual film festival in the District of Columbia.

The Signis jury cited "Departures" for its "reverence for human dignity," according to an April 27 announcement by jury chairman Frank Frost.

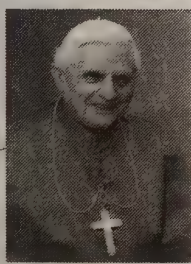
The film's title is derived from its Japanese title, "Okuribito," or "one who sees people off."

The movie combines serious drama with human-foibles comedy to tell the story of an orchestral musician who loses his job in an economic downturn. Returning to his ancestral village, he stumbles into a job assisting a man who "encompasses" the dead. The practitioner he assists educates him in the meticulous rituals that lend dignity to the dead and consolation to the bereaved.

The Signis jury also chose to honor two of the 70 other movies shown at Filmfest D.C., which ran April 16-26, with special commendations.

"The Necessities of Life," a Canadian film directed by Benoit Pilon, tells the story of an Inuit man torn from his family in his Arctic home to be hospitalized for tuberculosis at a Catholic hospital in Quebec, and the cultural gulf that must be bridged by both sides.

The other film, a Japanese entry called "Kabei" directed by Yoji Yamada, tells the story of a man in 1940 Japan who is imprisoned for criticizing the country's "crusade" against China. The problems that beset his family and relatives in the ensuing war years give a fresh perspective on the destructiveness war inflicts on the human fabric.



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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of May, here is a look at some of the closed Catholic missions in North Carolina

A mission, or quasi-parish, is under the care of a local parish and is a "definite community of the Christian faithful in a particular church, entrusted to a priest as its proper pastor but not yet erected as a parish because of particular circumstances" (Canon 516-1). While a mission may eventually become a parish, some missions are not so fortunate and close.

Some known closed N.C. missions not highlighted below are Bessemer City mission, St. Agnes of Greensboro, Liberty mission, St. Patricia of Linville, St. Benedict of Lowell, Sts. Mary and Joseph of Mount Holly and St. William chapel of Texana.

Charlotte, Our Lady of Providence Mission
Originally a mission of Our Lady of Consolation Church, Our Lady of Providence started in 1964 and was located at 2640 S. Tryon St.

A daycare, Little Folks Nursery, operated as part of the mission. In 1972, the mission was assigned to St. Patrick Cathedral. The daycare closed in 1978, followed by the chapel closing in 1979 and the property being leased.

Cherryville, Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission

The mission's first building was purchased in 1950 while Gaston County remained under the jurisdiction of Belmont Abbey. A new chapel was needed and it was transferred to the Diocese of Raleigh in 1960.

By October 1962, priests celebrated Mass in the newly constructed chapel and the mission came under the custodial care of Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain.

In 1966, St. Therese Church in Mooresville took over the care of the mission. Due to declining attendance and the shortage of priests, it was no longer considered a mission — it became a station whereby only weekday Mass was offered. By the late 1960s, the mission closed and the property eventually leased.

Dallas, St. Vincent Mission

Belmont Abbey monks began ministering in Dallas in the late 1930s. By the time diocesan priests from Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain began serving the mission in the early 1960s, Mass was held in the private family chapel belonging to the Lay and Withers families. Sunday Mass was discontinued in Dallas in the summer of 1963.

Elk Park, Sacred Heart Chapel

Located near the Tennessee border in Avery County, Elk Park was a major station of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad. Hence, Elk Park became a "boom town" in the early 20th century. This expansive growth led to the construction of Sacred Heart Chapel through funds from the Catholic Extension Society.

Sacred Heart was dedicated in 1916 but fell into disuse by the late 1920s, and its altar was later placed in St. Bernadette Chapel (predecessor of St. Lucien Church) in Spruce Pine.

Ghio, St. Francis Xavier Mission

St. Francis Xavier Mission dates back to around 1890, when Francis Scholl, a German emigrant, donated three acres of land on the Scotland/Richmond county border for the establishment of a church and cemetery. Throughout its 60 year existence, St. Francis Xavier was a mission of various parishes, including St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet. The mission's chapel burned down in 1948 and was never



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Sacred Heart Chapel in Elk Park is pictured in this undated black-and-white photograph.

rebuilt; however, the cemetery (now known as the Scholl Family Cemetery) still exists.

Fontana, Our Lady of the Lake Mission

With the construction of Fontana Dam in the early 1940s, priests from St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville periodically visited the village constructed near the dam to minister to the Catholics among the 5,000 workers.

About a decade later, Our Lady of the Lake became an official mission of St. John the Greater Church. St. William Church in Murphy became the caretaker of the mission by mid-1950, when Fontana was becoming a popular tourist destination. Our Lady of the Lake was later re-assigned as a mission of Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews, and priests continued to periodically serve the area through the summer of 1989.

Lance Cove, Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission Chapel

The first Lance Cove chapel was established in 1955 in an abandoned home near the banks of the Hiwassee River, seven miles outside the town of Hayesville. Glenmary priests assigned to St. William Church in Murphy served the Lance Cove mission area. In 1958, a different house was used as a chapel by the growing but poor Lance Cove community. Masses were discontinued in the chapel in September 1960, and the house reverted to being a private residence.

Revere, Chapel of the Little Flower

Constructed in 1931, the Jesuit priests stationed in Hot Springs served the Little Flower chapel. Approximately 30 people attended the first Masses offered in the chapel.

The two priests having the greatest impact on the growth of the Catholic presence in Madison County were Jesuit Fathers L.L. Toups and Andrew Graves. In the beginning, Father Toups and his flock encountered much opposition from the mostly Protestant population. They made attempts to add a school and convent to the property, but due to financial limitations, the project never officially started.

Father Graves served the people of Revere almost continuously from 1937 to 1984. Afterward, Masses were occasionally offered in Revere through the 1980s.

The chapel property sold in 1997.

Sisters of Mercy celebrate renovation of 1899 chapel



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the 110-year-old Sacred Heart Chapel in Belmont, which was recently renovated.

Hundreds took vows in Sacred Heart Chapel

BELMONT — With memories still vivid and cherished, the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont celebrated April 15 the renovation of the 110-year-old Sacred Heart Chapel, where a number of sisters worshipped and made their vows.

Taking part in the celebration — which included prayer, Scripture and reflection — were Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, Mercy Sister Michel Boulus, Mercy Sister Mary-Andrew Ray and Mercy Sister Kathy Green, as well as Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey and Dr. William Theirfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College.

"When I walk into the chapel now, I remember the way we were," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, who took her perpetual vows in the chapel in 1960.

"I relive the ceremonies, rituals and prayers, and I relive the sense of community of being together in prayer," she said. "The chapel represents the exterior symbols of internal realities to which we espouse."

Built in 1899, Sacred Heart Chapel, along with the original convent it adjoins, is the oldest building on the campus of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. The construction of the chapel and convent was funded by Susie Burns, who later became Mercy Sister Mary Mercedes Burns.

Monks from Belmont Abbey helped clear the land and, according to legend, made the bricks. Until 1962, when a new convent and chapel were built, an estimated 200 sisters took their final

vows in Sacred Heart Chapel.

Students at Sacred Heart College continued to use it for the next 25 years.

Sister Ray, who took her final vows in the chapel in 1958, is the North Carolina archivist for the sisters.

"I remember the beauty, the closeness and the many events that took place there," she said. "The history delights me as an archivist. We want to preserve as much as possible of its memory and its heritage."

Sister Jerome Spradley, who took her final vows in 1956, reflected upon how times were different back then.

"We didn't have air conditioning. In the summer, we had two huge fans that almost blew you away, and of course, the windows were open," she said. "In that time, all of us were in the traditional habits."

Fully restored, Sacred Heart Chapel contains many of its original features, including three altars, the hardwood flooring immediately surrounding them, stained glass windows and wooden pews.

"You always want a place like that chapel to continue forever," said Sister Spradley. "To have it restored to its original state is a wonderful thing to all of us who remember it."

"To go into that chapel brings back the commitment I've made to God and community," said Sister Picot. "I remember the sisters who are now deceased who prayed in that chapel and with whom I prayed."

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Operatic performance



COURTESY PHOTO

Performers from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Opera Theater perform "Jack and the Beanstalk" for students in kindergarten through third grade at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Dec. 4, 2008. The students learned about opera during the interactive presentation.

Buggy about bugs



COURTESY PHOTO

Third- and fourth-graders of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem show off their bug costumes for their performances of "Bugz" April 2. Both third- and fourth-grade classes had been studying bugs and their teachers decided to enhance the students' learning by having them perform the play. One performance was for students and faculty; a second was for family and friends.

'Three Pigs' invade school



COURTESY PHOTO

Students watch "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" performed by the Tarradiddle Players at St. Matthew School in Charlotte March 24. The Tarradiddle Players is the resident touring company of Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

Staging a musical



COURTESY PHOTO

The St. Pius X Players are pictured in costume for their performances of "High School Musical on Stage" March 26-28. The cast included 40 students from sixth through eighth grades. The stage musical is based on the Disney Channel's original movie "High School Musical."

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Thank God for Susan Boyle

She gave us a little taste of resurrection joy at Easter

Thank God for Susan Boyle.

Just when we need it, she gives our spirits a lift with a taste of "resurrection joy" in this Easter season.

Unless you have been on retreat with the Trappists, you probably know about Susan Boyle. She is the 47-year-old spinster from Scotland. She is unemployed "but still looking."

She won the hearts of the world singing on Easter weekend on "Britain's Got Talent." In the two weeks following her performance she set a record for the most page views ever on the Internet, with more than 85 million "hits" to see her sing.

Boyle is the most improbable of celebrities. She has the solid figure of a woman whose exercise is household chores. Her hair has rarely, if ever, seen a stylist. She does not own a car or have a driver's license.

She walks everywhere in her village of Blackburn. In 10 minutes she can reach all the essentials of her world: the grocery store, the Happy Valley pub where she sings karaoke, and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where she sings in the choir.

Susan lives alone with her cat, Pebbles.

Until her mother died two years ago, she was the caregiver for her elderly parents. The youngest of nine children, Boyle lives in the rented rowhouse where she grew up.

She told Scottish television that she has no boyfriend, had never been on a date and, sadly, has never even been kissed.

The children of the neighborhood admitted on television that they tease her when she walks out in the village. Maybe that is why she kept her dignity when she walked out on that stage in Glasgow before a mocking audience.

The lions. They were ready to tear her apart.

The camera captured teenage girls in the audience rolling their eyes. The judges had smirks on their faces.

Simon Cowell, the professional serpent on these shows, asked her why she had not achieved her dream of becoming a professional singer.

She said simply, "I've never been given the chance, really."

He puffed.

Then she sang.

What a voice!

Boyle sang "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables," a sad song about lost innocence and shattered optimism.

Cowell's eyebrow went up. He leaned back in shock. The same smartaleck

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MOIR, REUTERS

"Britain's Got Talent" contestant Susan Boyle gestures to onlookers in Blackburn, Scotland, April 21.

teens who had rolled their eyes were suddenly on their feet, cheering.

Piers Morgan, one of the judges said, "When you walked out on that stage, everybody was laughing at you. Nobody is laughing now."

Amanda Holden, the third judge, said, "Everybody was against you. That was the biggest wakeup call ever."

I watched the tape over and over again. I cried each time.

The whole world is cheering for Susan Boyle now.

But we aren't cheering just for her.

We're cheering for all the girls who have never been kissed.

For all the people who live alone with their cats.

For all the unemployed people who are "still looking."

For every child who gives up youth and dreams to take care of elderly parents.

For everyone who sings in church choirs for nothing more than the love of God.

We are cheering for all the lonely people around the world who have never "been given a chance, really."

Boyle burst on the scene on Easter weekend. She gave us a little taste of resurrection joy when the impossible happens, when hope is renewed and dreams are realized.

When the Brits are surprised, they say they are "gobsmacked."

I think the whole world was really "God-smacked."

Thank you, Susan.

Public faces and private hearts

Church is place to share struggles, kindness with those in need

Plato said: Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. What a world it would be if we all kept that in mind.

My friend's husband was recently diagnosed with a heart problem that requires surgery. It was an unexpected diagnosis, falling into their lives like lightning on a still night.

On top of the challenge of open-heart surgery, they were told it would be best to travel to a distant hospital where the procedure is done frequently. So they'll leave home and their local support system and journey to a strange city.

These are both people of faith and generosity, and as soon as they wrestled the news to the ground privately, they openly shared it with our church community.

Yesterday this friend and I helped out with a welcoming reception for new parishioners at our church. At the end of the reception we talked about sharing our lives with others, not just perfunctorily but on the deeper level where we all fight our private struggles.

My friend observed that it's hard having their medical news disseminated far and wide because everyone who sees them inquires about the issue, and sometimes it's wearying, repeating details and answering questions.

Yet, she said, what she has discovered is that the predicament facing her and her husband has a positive aspect: Their trial and their openness prompt others to share their stories.

During the reception, for example, a woman shared with my friend that one of her sons will be admitted to an assisted-living residence for a debilitating illness and another is dealing with a tumor.

Imagine, we both thought, what an ordeal this is for this mom. Yet all I knew of her was her smiling face at church.

Like all of us, she has a public face and a private heart.

That's why I love Plato's quote. It reminds me that each person I meet has a story I really don't know completely.

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



It doesn't sound like a quote from a Greek philosopher, does it? It sounds so earthy and Christian that I had to look it up again just to make sure Plato said it.

Keeping that quote in mind helps me deal with a grumpy salesclerk or a moody teenager. How little I know of their battles or even those of my own teenager, who picks and chooses what she shares of her heart's struggles.

I've been in my parish for years, and I know a lot of people. So when I look around the church sometimes I can peek behind a facade: I see the man who recently fought a battle with colon cancer and the woman who is faithfully caring for her husband with dementia.

I see a friend who suffered a devastating miscarriage and another whose daughter had a baby as an unmarried teen.

I pray for them as we together receive the body and blood of Christ.

But what I don't see makes me lift my heart in prayer as well: Who struggles with a marriage that is falling apart? Who deals with depression on a daily basis?

Who is battling alcohol or eating disorders? Whose child is at home, refusing to come to church?

My church is the place where I should be able to find someone with whom I can share my private struggle, someone who will listen to my story.

And it's certainly the place where I should encounter people who are kind, because they know everyone is fighting a hard battle.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Earth Day every day!

Caring for God's created world is a Catholic duty

What did you do on Earth Day (April 22)? I took the pledge: the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.

Promoted by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change (www.catholicsandclimatechange.org) in partnership with the U.S. bishops, the St. Francis Pledge asks us to:

— Pray and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and for the poor and vulnerable.

— Learn about and educate others on the moral dimensions of climate change.

— Assess how we — as individuals and organizations — contribute to climate change (i.e., consumption and conservation).

— Act to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change.

— Advocate Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

Caring for God's created world, giving special attention to the poor and vulnerable, is Catholic duty. And no one in the history of the church has lived this duty more faithfully and joyfully than St. Francis of Assisi. So naming the pledge after St. Francis is most appropriate.

Thomas of Celano, a contemporary follower of the saint, wrote that everything of the natural world that met Francis' eyes made him immensely happy!

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



Proclaiming St. Francis the patron saint of ecology, Pope John Paul II called the church's attention to St. Francis' "genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation."

Sadly, far too many corporations, political leaders and Christians do not strive to emulate the great saint.

According to Greenpeace (www.greenpeace.org), a leading environmental organization, industrial facilities continue to contaminate our air, water and food with dangerous toxic chemicals.

Forty percent of our nation's rivers are too polluted for fishing or swimming.

But the greatest threat to the natural world is climate change, caused principally by global warming.

Burning fossil fuels — oil, gas and coal — for energy produces huge amounts of heat-trapping gases in the lower atmosphere, the main human source of global warming. The second principal source is deforestation.

According to the respected Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org), since preindustrial times the atmospheric concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide has increased 31 percent.

It warns: "This increase in trapped heat changes the climate, causing altered weather patterns that can bring unusually intense precipitation or dry spells and more severe storms."

Increased droughts, floods and catastrophic storms are hurting many people, especially the poor of the world, whose governments often have little resources to assist them.

Please ask your congressional delegation to move forward legislation supporting deep reductions in global-warming gases. Urge new additional funding to help poor nations cope with the painful effects of climate change.

And encourage your legislators to aggressively advance clean alternative energy sources: wind, wave, geothermal and solar.

Starting at the top, the Catholic Church is taking climate change seriously.

Last November the first saplings of the Vatican Climate Forest were planted in Hungary. Some 125,600 trees will be planted to offset Vatican emissions of global-warming carbon dioxide, making it the world's first carbon-neutral nation.

St. Francis proclaimed, "Praised be you, my Lord, for our Sister Mother Earth."

But unlike Francis, we haven't been giving our planet the respect due a sister who cares for us like a mother.

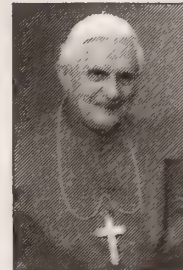
Make a difference! Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.

Let's make every day Earth Day!

People can learn to see God in world, in others, pope says at audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People can get a glimpse of God in the world and in other people, but they must learn how to recognize it, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"There is a certain visibility of God in the church and in the world, and we must learn how to see it," the pope said April 29 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"God created humankind in his image, but this image is covered with so much dirt from sin that it is almost impossible to see," the pope said.

The pope's reflection on images of God in the world flowed from his talk about the writings of St. Germanus, an 8th-century patriarch of Constantinople.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the early Christian writers of East and West, we turn to St. Germanus, bishop and patriarch of Constantinople, whose feast day is celebrated in the Greek church on 12 May.

In 717, while Constantinople was under siege by Saracen armies, Germanus led a procession with the venerated image of the Theotokos, the Mother of God, and relics of the Holy Cross. The siege was lifted, convincing him that God had responded to the people's devotion.

Some time later however, Emperor Leo III initiated his campaign against the use of sacred images, judging them to be a source of idolatry. When Germanus opposed the emperor publicly in 730, he was forced to retire in exile to a monastery, where he later died. His memory was not forgotten, and in the Second Council of Nicea, which restored devotion to sacred images, his name was honored.

The writings of Germanus, steeped in an ardent love of the church and devotion to the Mother of God, have had a wide influence on the piety of the faithful both of the East and the West.

He promoted a solemn and beautiful liturgy and is also known for his insights in Mariology. In homilies on the presentation and the dormition of the Virgin Mary, Germanus extols her virtue and her mission.

A text which sees the source of her bodily incorruption in her virginal maternity was included by Pope Pius XII in his apostolic constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus*.

I pray that through the intercession of St. Germanus, we may all be renewed in our love of the church and devotion to the Mother of God.

Letters to the Editor

Restraint, prudence needed with profits

While not purporting to defend Tony Magliano's entire message in "During Lent: What would Jesus do?" (Perspectives, March 20), I find Jack James' criticism of it lacking and fallacious ("Magliano misinterprets greed, solutions," letters to the editor, April 3).

James seems to take the position that it doesn't matter how you get it (profits) as long as you use some of it for the poor.

This sounds like the faulty "ends justify the means" argument to me.

James also likens "the drive to maximize profits" as "striving for excellence." Perhaps germane here is that several popes' encyclicals have for good reasons (some moral) severely criticized both unbridled

capitalism as well as communism as economic systems.

— Bob Howarth
Asheville

Obama does care about nuclear annihilation

There has been much criticism directed at Notre Dame University for inviting President Obama to speak at its commencement ceremony. I understand the criticism as it centers around the president's view on the life issue of abortion.

But recent events offer a wider perspective.

The president recently addressed an almost forgotten moral issue — the threat of nuclear annihilation. Obama wants an immediate end to nuclear tests, confirmed he would seek Senate approval of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and would hold a global summit on nuclear security within the next year.

His goals closely resemble the ideas expressed in a U.S. bishops' 1983

pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

Obama does differ with Catholic teaching on the issue of abortion, and because of that difference he is called "anti-life."

But he agrees with Catholic teaching on the issue of removing a threat that could destroy the lives of billions of people on this planet.

— James Doll
Columbus

Obama fails life test

President Obama's speaking abilities get an A+ in my grading book, but his moral perception cannot possibly get a passing grade.

Nor can I give the administration at Notre Dame University a passing grade.

I find it difficult to believe, let alone accept, the administration's choice to invite an individual who has very little affinity for human life.

I realize most of the students welcome such a choice, but sensitivity to wisdom supersedes youth.

— Joseph Di Lillo
Bryson City

'Like a burning ember hidden beneath the ashes'

Pope visits quake zone to strengthen survivors' faith, hope for future

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ONNA, Italy — In a visit aimed at strengthening people's faith and hope for the future, Pope Benedict XVI called for concrete and immediate measures to rebuild towns and villages devastated by a deadly earthquake.

The pope told survivors it had been his desire to come see them from the very moment the earthquake struck this mountainous Italian region April 6.

"I would have liked to have gone to every town and every neighborhood, to all the tent cities and to have met everyone if it had been possible," he said in the makeshift tent encampment a few miles outside L'Aquila.

The pope's April 28 visit took him first to Onna — a tiny village that had once been home to some 300 people. The magnitude 6.3 earthquake reduced buildings in the town to rubble, killing some 40 people and rendering the entire population homeless.

Poor weather conditions forced the pope to travel to the affected areas by car instead of by helicopter.

The severity and extent of the damage was evident even when viewed from the highway encircling L'Aquila. The city and its outskirts have become

ghost towns, with streets and parking lots empty of cars and entire apartment buildings dark and shuttered. Several buildings had enormous holes blown out of their walls, looking as if they had been bombarded with rocket fire.

The quake and its aftershocks left some 65,000 people homeless, nearly 300 people dead and another 1,500 injured, according to authorities.

Half of Onna's residents relocated to hotels along the seaside or moved in with relatives. The other half stayed behind, living in government-issued tents. Many of them are elderly, preferring to tend to what little they have left: their chickens, farm animals and vegetable gardens.

At the tent encampment in Onna, the pope expressed his sympathy for those living away from their homes and those living out of their cars or tents, especially with such cold and rainy weather.

"Dear friends, my presence among you is meant to be a tangible sign that the crucified and risen Lord has not abandoned you," he said.

He said God is present and not deaf to their cries for help and their worries after having lost their homes, savings, jobs and loved ones.

The pope said those who lost their lives are with God and that they would want to see their surviving friends and



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI arrives in the destroyed town of Onna, Italy, April 28. The pope visited Onna, where 40 of the town's 350 residents were killed in the earthquake that hit central Italy April 6.

relatives go forward with courage and hope, and the outpouring of help and support cannot end with just emergency.

Efforts must continue and "become a steady and concrete project" so that the city and surrounding towns can rise again, he said.

The pope expressed his concern for the many young people who have been "suddenly forced to tackle a harsh reality," children who can no longer go to school and elderly deprived of their homes.

The pope then warmly greeted residents and aid workers. Mothers brought their babies and toddlers to the pope to be blessed. He then rode through the devastated village in a white civil defense minibus.

One resident of Onna said 99 percent of the buildings are uninhabitable and need to be torn down.

The pope then went on to L'Aquila to visit the severely damaged Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio.

Surrounded by firefighters wearing helmets, the pope went inside to venerate the remains of St. Celestine V, a 13th-century pope who abdicated just a few months after his election. Heaps of debris were still sitting on the floor inside the basilica.

Firefighters warned the papal entourage that it was too dangerous to linger inside. The pope was visibly taken

aback by the level of destruction.

The pope then visited the site of a university dormitory that collapsed and claimed eight students' lives. He met with about a dozen students, blessing them and talking with them. He told those who were majoring in engineering to help the town build good homes.

The pope also called for an appropriate solution to be found soon for the thousands of people still living in tents. He made the comments during an outdoor gathering at a military school and barracks just outside L'Aquila. It was the same courtyard where a funeral Mass was celebrated April 10 for some 200 victims of the quake.

To an audience that included local bishops, religious men and women, government authorities, aid workers, rescuers and survivors, the pope said he was deeply moved by their hospitality.

He praised their unified and well-coordinated efforts not only for dealing with the disaster and its aftermath quickly and efficiently, but also for having been motivated by love.

Emergency efforts should never just be a well-oiled machine, he said, but should display "soul and passion."

Solidarity with those in crisis gives a sign of hope amid the darkness "like a burning ember hidden beneath the ashes," he said.

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
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CLOSET FULL OF DREAMS



CNS PHOTO BY ANDY TELLI, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Mariel D'Andrea, a sophomore at Father Ryan High School in Nashville, Tenn., operates the Becca's Closet charity from her house. She provides donated prom dresses and accessories to young girls who can't afford to buy their own. D'Andrea is one of hundreds of volunteers with the charity that has chapters in at least 30 states.

Catholic teen finds reward in helping girls in need get prom dresses

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Although Mariel D'Andrea's first high school prom is a year away, the Catholic high school sophomore has a closet full of prom dresses, shoes and makeup — all the necessary trappings for that special occasion.

Well actually, none of these items belong to her. They've been donated to D'Andrea for her Becca's Closet initiative, a national program with local chapters that collects donated formal wear and accessories and makes them available to girls who can't afford to buy their own.

It all started three years ago, when D'Andrea's mom, Jo Ann, read the Ms. Cheap column in The Tennessean daily newspaper about a girl in Franklin, Caroline Davidson, who was collecting and giving away prom dresses through her own Becca's Closet chapter.

"We e-mailed her, and said we'd love to help out in any way we could," said D'Andrea, who is a student at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. "We didn't hear back from her for a year. Then she e-mailed us, said she'd kept our e-mail and that she was graduating and needed someone to pass this on to."

Becca's Closet originated in Davie, Fla., in 2002, when a high school freshman, Rebecca Kirtman, launched a drive to provide prom dresses to disadvantaged high school girls.

During the spring of her sophomore year, Kirtman single-handedly collected and donated more than 250 formal dresses

throughout south Florida. Tragically, the 16-year-old Kirtman was killed in a car accident that same year, but her vision continues through other girls' efforts across the country.

"We thought it was a great thing that we'd like to get involved with, but we didn't know how much work it was going to be," D'Andrea said. "We also didn't realize how many people it would affect, and how many great people we would meet."

Davidson packed up all the dresses and shoes, and delivered them to the D'Andreas' house. Jo Ann and Mariel unpacked them upstairs in their attic workout room.

Word about D'Andrea's effort has spread through people who come in for dresses and those who donate them.

"It's kind of a touchy thing," she said. "Some girls may be embarrassed about needing to get a dress from us, so we try not to make it too public. And they know we're not going to say anything. We're not here to judge, just to help."

Her "clients" visit from all over Tennessee and beyond, including many from Kentucky. Those who are hoping to get a dress have to call or e-mail D'Andrea to set up an appointment. There's no financial eligibility to get a free dress; it's all on an honor system.

"I guess I always took for granted that everyone could afford a prom dress," said D'Andrea. "But many girls can't even afford their prom tickets. So us helping them with a dress is a huge deal."

Poll shows Catholics have mixed reaction to Obama's Notre Dame invite

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a nationwide poll, half of U.S. Catholics overall supported the University of Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to address college graduates while 28 percent opposed it.

But when the Catholics polled were divided into categories of those who attended weekly Mass and those who did not, the numbers shifted.

Thirty-seven percent of those attending weekly Mass supported the Indiana university's decision while 45 percent opposed it.

The poll, conducted by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, was released April 30. It was based on telephone interviews April 23-27 with 2,003 adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

The overall Catholic response to the survey was similar to the nationwide views on the issue: 48 percent approved,

25 percent disapproved and 27 percent said they didn't know.

Of Catholics who attended Mass less than once a week, 23 percent found fault with the university's decision and 56 percent favored it.

The survey also asked if respondents were even aware of the controversy surrounding Obama's scheduled May 17 graduation speech and his acceptance of an honorary degree from the university.

Critics say the president's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice for a commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

In the group of Catholics who had not heard about the controversy, 45 percent sided with the university's decision to invite Obama and 18 percent opposed it.

Of the Catholics who were familiar with the issue, 54 percent agreed with the university and 38 percent disagreed.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The NC Right to Life, Hendersonville-Buncombe Chapter, is sponsoring a *Mother's Day Prayer Vigil* May 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, S. Main St. All are invited to attend. Gifts will be collected for babies and new mothers of the Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center. For more information, call Eileen Brennan at (828) 697-5286.

MONROE — A *parish retreat* featuring guest speaker Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., May 24-27, each evening at 7 p.m. Topics covered will include "To be born again," "The healing love of Jesus," "The call to be church" and "Our response to the call." The retreat is free and open to the public. For more information, call Deacon Roland Geoffroy at (704) 289-2773, ext. 240.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "*The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics*." The talks will be held the second

and fourth Mondays of the month 7-9 p.m. in the parish activity center. Upcoming dates are May 11, 25. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088, ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — A *band concert* will be held at Holy Trinity Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., May 17 at 2 p.m. For more information, contact David Shoff at (704) 906-9633 or dshoff@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — All adults are invited to attend the *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, May 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center gym. Join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere. There is no charge; however, donations are accepted. To reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy at (704) 400-2213 by May 22.

CHARLOTTE — The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Basil the Great, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., will host an *introduction to Eastern Christian spirituality* led by Father Deacon Daniel Dozier. All Catholics are invited to attend this free event to learn more about the diverse and universal nature of the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be May 16 on the topic, "Nostalgia for God: Return." Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall after Divine Liturgy at 6 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Gabriel in Transition* (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be May 26 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Tom Lane, one of Charlotte's leaders in career development.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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MAY 8, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 26

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican reaffirms support for nuclear nonproliferation treaty at UN

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican's chief representative to the United Nations has set forth a series of steps that will move the world toward the goal of eventual nuclear disarmament.

Speaking at the U.N. May 5, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal nuncio to the world body, reaffirmed the Vatican's support for the nuclear nonproliferation treaty in offering five "concrete, transparent and convincing" steps to demonstrate the world's willingness to end the threat that nuclear weapons pose. He called for:

— Adherence to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which outlaws nuclear weapons testing.

— The immediate opening of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty that would prohibit the further production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium.

— An end to reliance on nuclear weapons as a part of military policy

among nuclear states.

— Giving oversight of the peaceful use of nuclear energy to the International Atomic Energy Agency and expanding the agency's role to include the nonproliferation side of the treaty.

— Developing an agreement on the production of nuclear fuel to meet growing energy needs, with the international atomic agency taking a leading role to ensure safety, security and fair access for all countries.

"All these measures are necessary to promote trust, transparency, confidence and cooperation among nations and regions," Archbishop Migliore said at the second session of a 12-day preparatory committee meeting called in advance of a conference to review the treaty in 2010.

With 26,000 nuclear warheads remain in the world's weapons stockpiles, the archbishop said the nonproliferation treaty remains "a cornerstone of nuclear disarmament."

Networking and one-on one coaching sessions will follow speaker. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Mass of thanksgiving and celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima will take place May 13 at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. Celebrating priests will include Father John Putnam (homilist), Father James Ebright, Father Conrad Kimbrough, Father Richard DeClue and Father Christopher Roux. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Mass following at 6 p.m. For more information, call (336) 765-1815.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., has restarted its reemployment support group. The next meeting will be May 14 at 7:30 in Room 9 of the Parish Life Center. For more information, call Colleen at the church office (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and discussion in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start a month-long program on the Book of Joshua May 5. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

HIGH POINT — An International Festival will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., May 31, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Bring food to share, beverages will be provided. There will be entertainment and exhibits from exotic places around the world as well as special entertainment for children. It's all free. For more information, call (336) 869-7739.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — An Estate Planning Seminar will be held in Helfrich Hall at Sacred Heart Church, 128 North Fulton St., May 16 at 7 p.m. in the ministry center. The seminar is free and light refreshments will be served. RSVP to

Sharon Burgess at (704) 633-0591 to reserve your place.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad get together on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open for fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or katie_knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — Theological Tuesday, an evening with Father Herbert Burke, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, will take place May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Father Burke is the author of "A Scriptural Catechism" and "The Rosary is the Answer." His unique style and humor will inform and challenge you to better know Christ, through Mary, and to live your friendship with him. A light dinner and dessert will be served at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Mary Beth Young at yrmmarybeth@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoores@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 11 (11 a.m.)
Diaconate ordination of Legionaries of Christ
Brother Richard Sutter
Belmont Abbey

May 12 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 14 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

May 15 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

It is a 'shameful tragedy' people go hungry in the world, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of the most urgent and critical social problems afflicting the world today is the "shameful tragedy that one-fifth of humanity still goes hungry," Pope Benedict XVI told members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

"Assuring an adequate food supply, like the protection of vital resources such as water and energy, requires all international leaders to collaborate in showing a readiness to work" toward eliminating social inequalities between countries and communities, he said in an address May 4.

"For Christians who regularly ask God to 'give us this day our daily bread,' it is a shameful tragedy" that so many people go hungry and are malnourished, he said.

Some 25,000 people die from hunger every day and one child dies every six seconds of malnutrition or starvation, according to the United Nations' World Food Program.

World Food Program.

The pope made his remarks during an audience with about 55 participants attending a plenary assembly of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

The academy, headed by the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, was meeting May 1-5 to discuss Catholic social doctrine and human rights.

The meeting was specifically addressing rights that are currently under assault, such as the right to life, the right to build a family, freedom of conscience and religion, and the right to decent subsistence.

The pope said there is "a flagrant contrast between the equal attribution of rights and the unequal access to the means of attaining those rights."

If the ethical underpinnings of human rights are ignored, then those rights will remain fragile since they would be deprived of their solid and sound foundations, he said.

Breaking the ICE



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Mercy Sisters Pat Murphy and Jo Ann Persch address clergy and their supporters in front of the Broadview Immigrant Detention Center in Broadview, Ill., April 30. After two and a half years of weekly prayer vigils outside the facility, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has agreed to allow the clergy to pray with immigrant detainees on the deportation buses on Friday mornings during a two-month trial period.

Israel, Vatican officials deny reports about control of holy sites

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israeli and Vatican officials denied reports that Israeli President Shimon Peres had asked the government to relinquish sovereignty over several holy places as a gesture of good will for Pope Benedict XVI.

Reports abounded in the Israeli press in early May claiming internal discord between Peres and officials from the Tourism and Interior ministries after the president allegedly had urged them to yield key Christian holy sites to the Vatican.

"What was published was taken out of context," a spokeswoman for the president's office said May 6. "The Israeli media published it as if the president

was asking to give up sovereignty over holy sites, and there is a great distance between that and the reality."

The spokeswoman said Israel already has pledged to the Vatican that it will not confiscate land around six Christian sites for any sort of national development purpose such as the widening of roads.

She said Peres had asked the ministries, as a gesture of good will before the pope's May 8-15 trip to the Holy Land, to confirm the pledge and to speed up the negotiations.

Archbishop Antonio Franco, papal nuncio to Israel, said the reports were a "big mess, a confusion of things."

Preparing for the future

Parish estate planning seminars applicable, informative

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Approximately 70 people attended an estate planning seminar sponsored by the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte April 28.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church, opened the seminar with a prayer and spoke briefly about stewardship and planned gifts.

"Gathering for the will seminar at St. Gabriel's made me mindful of how fortunate we are in the Diocese of Charlotte to have professionals in this area who share information that is so helpful," said Father O'Rourke.

"Infusing stewardship principles into estate planning, wills and end of life issues is a blessing," he said.

John Engler, parishioner and co-chair of the parish planned giving committee, introduced the speakers, who included Don Hodgens, parishioner and co-chair of the committee; and Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Topics covered included wills, powers of attorney, trusts and bequests.

There was also a presentation on the Catholic Heritage Society — an honorary society open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to the foundation, the Diocese of Charlotte or any of its parishes, schools, agencies or organizations.

"A question and answer period follows each seminar and gives those attending an opportunity to have many of their questions answered by an attorney in a relaxed environment," said Smith.



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Hodgens, retired estate planning attorney and co-chair of the parish planned giving committee, answers legal questions during an estate planning seminar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte April 28.

Hodgens, a retired estate planning attorney, was available to answer legal questions.

"The foundation office conducts these free seminars on a regular basis to help raise awareness of parishioners on the importance of taking care of their loved ones and continuing their stewardship to the church through the process of estate planning," said Smith.

All attendees received packets of take-home materials, including an estate planning toolkit.

WANT MORE INFO?

The next estate planning seminar will be May 19 at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. To schedule a seminar at your parish, contact Judy Smith, planned giving director, at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

State Senate passes bill despite opposition of bishops, Catholics

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Despite receiving hundreds of e-mails from concerned Catholics, the N.C. State Senate narrowly passed the School Violence Protection Act.

The bill, known as SB 526, passed May 5 by a vote of 25-22.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh had urged Catholics to oppose the bill through Catholic Voice NC, their nonpartisan political initiative and Web site.

In a letter e-mailed to site subscribers three days prior to the vote, the two bishops stated support for the concept of a bill that would protect students from bullying and harassment.

"All students and school employees should be free of bullying or harassing behavior. This is in accord with their fundamental dignity as human beings," the bishops' letter said.

The bill requires school employees who witness harassment or bullying, or have

reliable information about such incidents, to report them to school authorities. The measure identifies more than a dozen reasons children are harassed.

"The section in question ... includes gender identity and sexual orientation," the bishops said.

The bishops believe supporters of the bill were laying legal groundwork for gay marriage in North Carolina.

"In three states that have a law similar to SB 526, the law was used as part of a lawsuit to persuade a judge or court to mandate same-sex marriage," the bishops said. "This would be contrary to our fundamental teaching and understanding of marriage."

A total of 771 individuals contacted their senators through the Catholic Voice NC Web site. The bill now goes to the House for a vote.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Voice NC, visit www.catholicvoicenc.org.

A sign of faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Haglof officiates the clothing ceremony of Sheryl Peyton (left) with the assistance of Elizabeth Pantas during a Mass at St. Barnabas Church in Arden March 14.

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites clothes member in brown scapular

ARDEN — Sheryl Peyton is now wearing a visible sign of her faith.

Peyton, religious education director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, was clothed in the ceremonial brown scapular by the Flower of Carmel Community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites during a Mass at the church March 14.

The clothing of the brown scapular, the habit of the order, was the result of 18 months of study and discernment by Peyton and the community.

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Haglof, prior of Christ on the Mountain Monastery in Hinton, W.Va., and the community's first spiritual assistant, celebrated the Mass and officiated at the ceremony. Elizabeth Pantas, Carmelite formation director, assisted on behalf of the community.

Peyton now begins a five-year period of study, prayer and discernment that may lead her to make lifelong promises of poverty, chastity and obedience to the community and to the superiors of the Teresian Carmel.

"For me, Carmel provides the contemplative counterweight to my active ministry in the church," said Peyton. "While my parish work comes from and

is guided by my spiritual life, I do have a tendency to let it dominate my time and attention. My commitment to formation in Carmel and the daily prayer it calls for helps me to keep the two balanced."

"I feel called to Carmel because the spirituality that it embodies fits me. I love that in the Carmelite tradition Elijah is revered as its founder because he, like the hermits on (Mount) Carmel, sought God in the desert and in silence," she said.

Peyton added that being a part of the Flower of Carmel community will be beneficial to her.

"It is nice to be on the receiving end of the teaching and the insight provided by those who have been in Carmel longer than I have," she said. "It is also an opportunity for me to witness the many ways God works through his followers."

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites is an order of diocesan priests and laity who embrace the spirit and ideals of the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the community, visit www.flowerofcarmel.org or contact Ella Reid, president, at (828) 667-3903 or epreid@hotmail.com.



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Two seminarians for diocese ordained as transitional deacons

ORDAINED, from page 1

the Word, "to proclaim and teach with conviction" the teachings of Christ and the church; and the ministry of charity, marked with "the indelible spiritual character which configures him to Christ the servant."

Bishop Jugis urged the deacon candidates to "be men of good reputation, filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit, as were those once chosen by the Apostles."

Following the homily, the candidates made commitments to permanent celibacy, and each stated his willingness to perform what the church requires of deacons — humble and loving assistance given to the bishop, proclamation of the mysteries of the faith as taught by Christ, a deepening commitment to ecclesial prayer and a continued renewal of life in the example of Christ.

The Litany of the Saints followed, during which the candidates lay prostrate before the altar.

Bishop Jugis completed the act of ordination in a prayer of consecration after the laying on of hands, a Scriptural gesture that signifies a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, by which men are configured to Christ in holy orders.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html.

"Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Each new deacon was then presented with a Book of the Gospels, and was charged by Bishop Jugis:

"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach."

Ordination to the diaconate traditionally takes place toward the end of the seminarians' third year of graduate study and marks the final stages of preparation for the priesthood.

The deacons are authorized to baptize, proclaim the Gospel, preach, officiate at weddings and funerals, administer sacramentals and care for the dying.

Deacons Budzinski, Eckert and Miller will continue their studies during the 2009-10 academic year, after which they will be ordained to the priesthood upon completion of the master of divinity degree program.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured with transitional Deacons John Eckert (pictured left of bishop) and David Miller (pictured right of bishop) after their diaconate ordination at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio April 26. Also pictured is Father John Allen, dean of men for the seminary's School of Theology, and priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte. Pictured (back row, from left) are Paul Buchanan, Richard Worthington, Father Christopher Gober, Father Allen, Father John Putnam, Josh Voitus, Noah Carter; (front row, from left) Paul McNulty, Deacon Eckert, Bishop Jugis, Deacon Miller, Deacon Benjamin Roberts, Jason Barone and Matthew Codd.

Deacon John Eckert



FILE PHOTO

Deacon David Miller



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Catholic churches take preventive measures against spread of flu

FLU, from page 1

In Mexico City, the epicenter of the outbreak, preventive measures outlined by the church have included instructions to both priests and parishioners on church behavior during a public health outbreak.

The recommendations urged priests to limit homilies to five minutes and wear masks while hearing confession.

Parishioners were advised to not bring young children and the elderly to Mass, to wear face masks and to wait to put money in the collection plate until after they receive Communion.

The Archdiocese of Mexico City also announced that weddings, "quinceaneras" and baptisms would be postponed, but could be conducted in private if a priest deemed that adequate health safeguards were being taken.

Some Catholic churches across Mexico City reopened for Mass, despite admonishments from the local government for residents to avoid large gatherings to prevent the spread of swine flu.

In other parts of the country, however, churches remained closed and pilgrimages were canceled.

As cases of swine flu were confirmed in various countries, Catholic officials issued cautions.

In New Zealand, the bishops temporarily suspended the reception of Communion on the tongue and from the chalice and shaking hands at the sign of peace.

In an April 30 statement, the bishops called these restrictions precautionary and said they would issue an update if stronger action was needed.

Various bishops in the United States issued similar guidelines.

As of May 7, the United States had more than 600 swine flu cases with one flu-related death.

According to Centers for Disease Control statistics, there has been seven



CNS PHOTO BY ELIANA APONTE, REUTERS (MAY

Priests wear masks as protection against the H1N1 virus, commonly called swine flu, as they attend Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City May 3.

confirmed cases of swine flu in North Carolina (in the eastern part of the state) and 17 in South Carolina.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, it is up to individual pastors to determine if changes during Mass were necessary in their parishes.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship said in a statement in late April it did not feel that widespread liturgical adaptations were necessary at that time to prevent the spread of the swine flu.

In England, the Diocese of Lancaster published an online booklet called "Sustaining Pastoral Presence: Influenza Outbreaks," with information about the swine flu and preventive measures.

The diocese said the booklet was designed to "ensure that Catholic parishes and chaplaincy teams maintain their presence as agents of pastoral care during a flu epidemic or pandemic in a way that both protects those engaged in pastoral ministry and protects those who need their help."

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray and Gavin Abraham in New Zealand.



CNS PHOTO BY DANIEL AGUILAR

Homeless youths sit together on the street after a routine check up for flu symptoms at a mobile clinic in downtown Mexico City May 3. Mexico has moved past the peak of the H1N1 flu pandemic and is in the "phase of descent," the Mexican government said May 3.

Pope prays for those hit by swine flu pandemic

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the people of Mexico to keep their faith in God, who will help them as they face a deadly flu outbreak.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square May 3, the pope expressed his spiritual closeness to all those hit by the swine flu, which is spread by human contact.

He said he was praying "for the victims of the influenza that is affecting Mexico and other countries."

Speaking in Spanish, the pope called on Mexicans to "stand firm in the Lord; he will help you

overcome this difficulty."

He invited families to pray together to Our Lady of Guadalupe, asking that she assist and protect them.

According to the World Health Organization, there were 1,085 confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, which causes swine flu, in 21 countries, as of late May 4.

Mexico had 590 confirmed cases of the virus and 25 flu-related deaths. The outbreak originated in Mexico, but officials there said the number of new infections was dropping.

As of May 4, the United States had more than 280 swine flu cases with one flu-related death.

Cases have been confirmed in Canada, Latin America, and parts of Europe and Asia.

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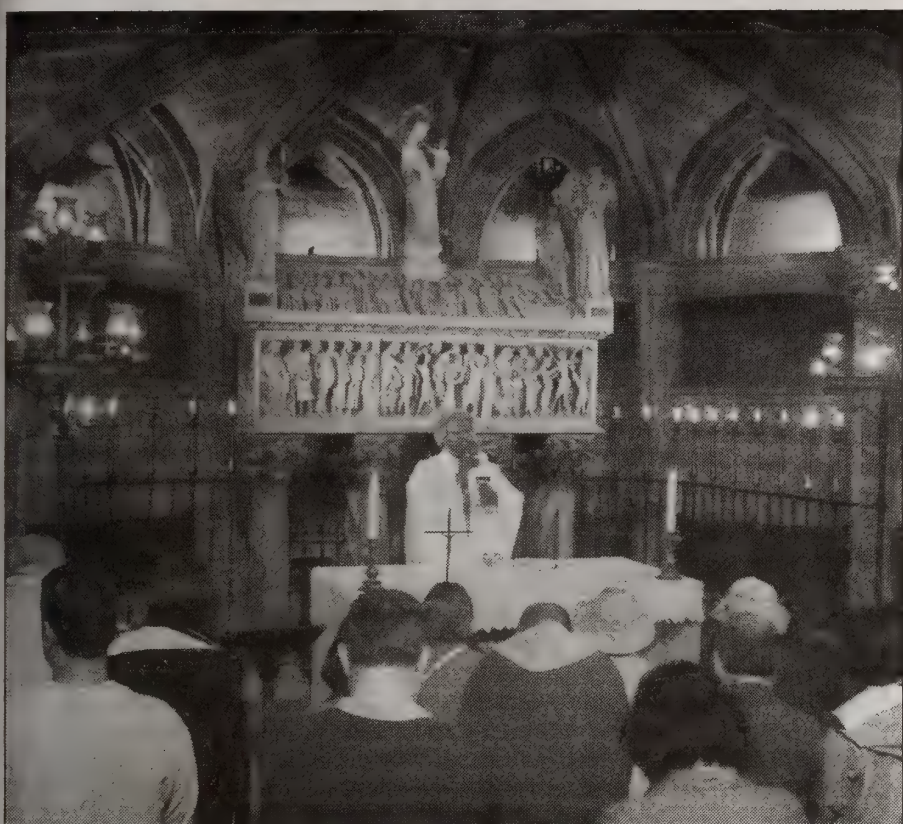
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Mass from the crypt



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrates Mass at the Cathedral of Santa Eulalia in Barcelona, Spain, April 27.

Pope John Paul II prayed at this site on a 1982 visit to the crypt of St. Eulalia, which is located under the cathedral's main altar.

Joining Msgr. West on the April 19-28 diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage to Barcelona; Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France; and nearby areas were 33 people from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

For information on the next diocesan trip in November, see the advertisement on page 16.

Local Catholic attends private audience with pope

Buckley shares mission for Scripture ministry

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

VATICAN CITY — Local Catholic Gail Buckley accompanied members of the U.S.-based Papal Foundation to a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican May 2.

The Papal Foundation, established in 1990 in the name of the pope, raises money for the building of churches, seminaries, schools, hospitals and other projects for the care of the poor around the world.

The foundation invited Buckley, founder and executive director of Catholic Scripture Study International, because of her work in promoting the study of sacred Scripture within the context of Catholic Church teaching.

Also in attendance was actor Eduardo Verastegui, star of the movie "Bella," who too was invited to attend as a guest of the foundation.

During the audience, Buckley, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, presented the pope with Scripture study materials and told him the Lord had called her to start a Catholic Bible study program.

Buckley said she got a big smile from the pope when she told him the goal of Catholic Scripture Study International is "for laity to study Scripture in community and in light of the church's teaching."

"It was an awesome experience, being so close to, touching and speaking with the Vicar of Christ on earth," she said. "Certainly an experience I will treasure forever."

In a recent address to members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission the pope said that the interpretation of sacred Scripture cannot be subjective, but must be interpreted within the church community.

Pope Benedict also said that the topic of Scripture study is of great

importance to him.

It is "a concern that lies very close to my heart because the interpretation of sacred Scripture is of fundamental importance for Christian faith and the life of the church," the pope said.

During the private audience, Pope Benedict praised the members of the Papal Foundation for being the kind of Christians "who continue to meet the challenges we face with courage and trust."

"At moments such as these it is tempting to overlook those without a voice and think only of our own difficulties," said the pope, speaking in terms of the current economic conditions.

"As Christians we are aware, however, that especially when times are difficult we must work even harder to ensure that the consoling message of Our Lord is heard," the pope said during the meeting at the Vatican.

"Even though the economy has been bad, the Papal Foundation was able to contribute even more than they had in previous years," said Buckley.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore and vice president of the foundation, spoke on behalf of the group, which presented the pope with the list of 84 specific projects and dozens of scholarships funded this year for a total of more than \$7.5 million.

In the midst of the financial crisis, the pope told the benefactors, "rather than turning in on ourselves, we must continue to be beacons of hope, strength and support for others, most especially those who have no one to watch over or assist them."

The foundation, he said, ensures that assistance continues to be carried out in the name of Christ and of his church.

Contributing to this article was Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gail Buckley, founder and executive director of Catholic Scripture Study International and parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, presents Scripture study materials to Pope Benedict XVI during a private audience at the Vatican May 2.

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TO THE HOLY LAND

Pope's pilgrimage will take message of peace

POPE, from page 1

the pope can expect to find his every word and gesture under scrutiny by the world's media — especially when it comes to relations among Christians, Muslims and Jews and the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Although the world may measure the success of the visit in terms of international or interfaith diplomacy, Pope Benedict is going to the Holy Land first and foremost as a religious pilgrim.

"The priority is to witness to the truth of the Incarnation by visiting, as head of the church, the places where the events of our redemption took place. That's the point," Franciscan Father David Jaeger, an Israeli priest and adviser to the Vatican, told Catholic News Service.

The pilgrimage has a special focus on peace. The pope, in announcing the visit, said he would be going to the Holy Land to pray for "the precious gift of unity and peace for the Middle East and all humanity."

Father Jaeger said that's extremely important at a time when hopes for peace among the population are the lowest in many years.

"The worst thing that can happen is the loss of hope for peace. So for him to speak openly of the possibility and the necessity of peace and reconciliation should thrust those values into the fore," Father Jaeger said.

"It's not a political negotiation of course; he's not going to produce a peace treaty or try to. But the fact that he keeps the value of peace in front of the people of the region, that will be a tremendous contribution by the church," he said.

In Jordan

The first leg of the pope's trip will take him to Jordan for a series of carefully chosen liturgies and encounters, including a visit to a mosque in Amman.

That event, and the fact that Pope Benedict is spending several days in Jordan, reflects his aim to reach a wide Muslim audience.

In 2006, Pope Benedict prayed in a mosque in Turkey, a gesture that spoke volumes to the Islamic world.

In Amman, the pope will deliver a speech outside the mosque to Muslim leaders, diplomats and rectors of the University of Jordan. The audience and the setting make it likely that the pope will revisit the themes of his speech in 2006 in Regensburg, Germany, but this time making sure his remarks on reason and faith do not unintentionally offend his listeners.

For Jordan's Catholic faithful, who number about 75,000 in a population of 6.2 million, the big event will be the papal Mass in an Amman soccer stadium May 10.

Two smaller papal events in Jordan should not go unnoticed.

His first appointment in Amman is at the Regina Pacis center, a special

"But the fact that he keeps the value of peace in front of the people ... will be a tremendous contribution by the church."

— Franciscan Father David Jaeger

needs facility that has inspired Christian-Muslim dialogue and collaboration. Here the pope is likely to emphasize the importance of the "dialogue of life" and social cooperation among followers of the Abrahamic faiths.

The pope also will lay the cornerstone of the University of Madaba, which is being built by the Latin patriarchate; blessing cornerstones is a common activity in papal visits, but establishing a Catholic-run university in a predominantly Muslim country makes this one special.

Much of the pope's itinerary follows in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II's Holy Land pilgrimage in 2000.

Pope Benedict, for example, will pray at Mount Nebo in western Jordan, where Moses glimpsed the Promised Land before dying. And, like his predecessor, he will visit the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized — the setting of the opening chapter of Pope Benedict's book, "Jesus of Nazareth."

In Israel

The pope travels to Jerusalem May 11 and later that day visits the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, in what Vatican aides view as a central event of the trip.

When Pope John Paul spoke at the memorial in 2000, Israelis reacted with warm appreciation; many considered it a turning point in his pilgrimage.

Pope Benedict has spoken eloquently about the Holocaust, and as a German has recalled growing up as a witness to the brutality of the regime that targeted Jews for extermination.

Vatican sources said, however, that the pope will not be going to Yad Vashem to apologize as a German, but to invoke a wider lesson on the dangers of racism and anti-Semitism.

On May 12, his first full day in Jerusalem, the pope visits sites sacred to Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

He begins at the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines, and proceeds to the Western Wall, sacred to Jews. The two sites lie adjacent to each other and in the past have been the scene of bitter skirmishes between Palestinians and Israelis.

The same day the pope will meet separately with the city's two chief rabbis and the grand mufti.

The pope will make a daylong visit May 13 to the West Bank city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus and today a key administrative city of the Palestinian Authority, whose



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Franciscan Father Garret Edmunds leads an international tour group around the Dome of the Rock at the Temple Mount complex in the Old City of Jerusalem April 6. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Dome of the Rock during his May 8-15 visit to the Holy Land. The Islamic shrine holds significance to Muslims, Jews and Christians.

officials will welcome the pontiff at the presidential palace.

The main religious event of the day is a Mass in Manger Square.

That afternoon, the pope will visit the Aida Refugee Camp, where some 5,000 Palestinians live. The visit is already politically charged.

Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem said recently that the camp, which has a giant key installed atop one of the camp's gates, symbolizes the "right to return," the principle that Palestinian refugees have a right to return to the homes in Israel that they have been forced to leave at various times since 1946, when the war for Israeli statehood began.

In addition, Israel has objected that the platform being built to host the Aida event is too close to the Israeli separation wall, which Israel has designed as a 400-mile-long security barrier through the West Bank and which Palestinians see as an instrument of repression.

The pope will celebrate Mass May 14 in Nazareth, the city where Jesus grew up, and later visit the Grotto of the Annunciation and hold a prayer service with Catholic leaders of Galilee.

Like his Mass earlier in the week in the Josafat Valley near the Garden of Gethsemane, these liturgies are central to the pope's pilgrimage, offering moral support to the dwindling Christian population in the land where the church was born.

U.S. Cardinal John P. Foley, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, said the pope's visit would underline the importance of maintaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

"He will do what Peter always does: encourage the faithful, recognize them, give them a renewed sense of worth and let them know how much the universal church appreciates them and the importance of their faith," the cardinal said.

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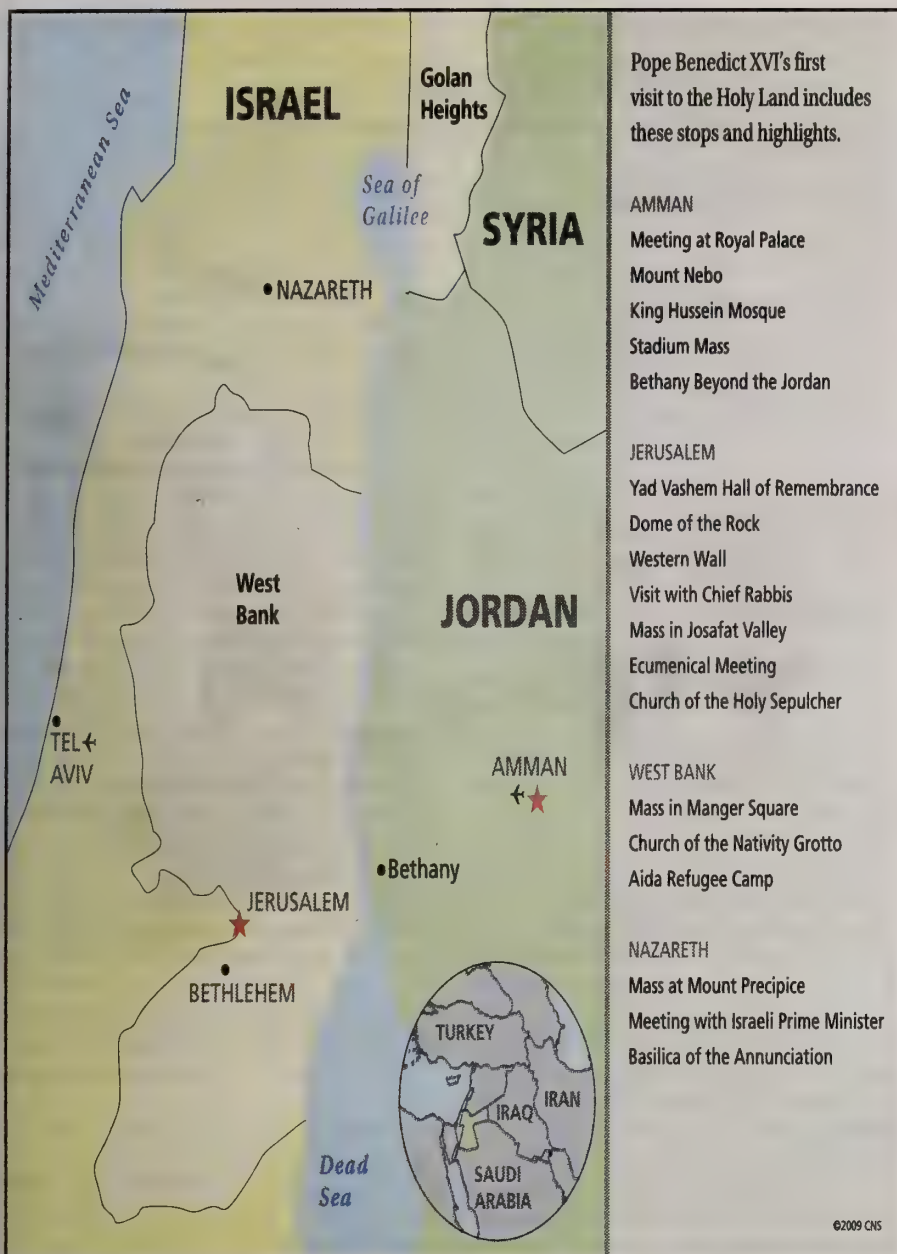


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TO THE HOLY LAND



Footsteps toward peace



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Muslim women walk at the al-Aqsa Mosque at the Temple Mount complex in the Old City of Jerusalem April 6. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Dome of the Rock, located near the al-Aqsa Mosque, during his May 8-15 visit to the Holy Land.

Pope asks for prayers for Holy Land trip, peace for region's people

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Preparing to visit the Holy Land, Pope Benedict XVI asked for prayers for his trip, for peace in the region and for the suffering Palestinian people.

Reciting the "Regina Coeli" prayer May 3 with thousands of visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope said he would make the May 8-15 trip to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories as a "pilgrim of peace, in the name of the one God who is father of all."

Pope Benedict said he wanted to show the region's people how committed the Catholic Church is to supporting everyone engaged in dialogue and reconciliation and working "to reach a stable and lasting peace with justice and mutual respect."

Addressing English-speaking visitors, the pope asked for prayers for "the afflicted people" of the Holy Land.

"In a special way, I ask that you remember the Palestinian people who have endured great hardship and suffering," he said.

Pope Benedict prayed that God would bless the Palestinians and all the region's people "with the gifts of unity and peace."

In his main talk, the pope said that in addition to going to encourage peacemaking he wanted to follow in the footsteps of Pope Paul VI, who visited the region in 1964, and Pope John Paul II, who made his pilgrimage in 2000.

Pope Benedict said he would visit the "principal holy sites of our faith" and, as the successor of the apostle Peter, he would "confirm and encourage the Holy

Land's Christians, who face difficulties every day."

The pope also spoke about his trip May 2 when he met donors from the U.S.-based Papal Foundation.

Today's world, he told foundation members, is in need of God's peace, "especially as it faces the tragedies of war, division, poverty and despair."

Telling foundation members that he wanted to be "a pilgrim of peace" in the Holy Land, the pope explained that "for more than 60 years this region — the land of Our Lord's birth, death and resurrection; a sacred place for the world's three great monotheistic religions — has been plagued by violence and injustice."

"This has led to a general atmosphere of mistrust, uncertainty and fear — often pitting neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother," he said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters May 4 that for several reasons the trip is taking place in "a context not easy in terms of peace and serenity."

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Gaza Strip occurred just five months ago, Israel has a new government, members of the Palestinians' Fatah and Hamas factions have been negotiating for months without success to form a new unity government, and the new U.S. foreign policy of Barack Obama has just begun to take shape, Father Lombardi said.

In such a complex situation, he said, "the pope's trip presents itself as an act of hope and of trust that he can make a contribution to peace and reconciliation. It seems to me to be a decidedly courageous act."



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Author offers eyewitness accounts, history galore about exorcisms

REVIEWED BY NANCY L. ROBERTS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



In modern life, the concept of evil personified in Satan and his minions may seem a superstitious anachronism.

After all, we now have a sophisticated grasp of the neurological and psychological causes of epilepsy, schizophrenia, dissociative identity disorder and the like — all conditions whose treatment, in earlier times, often consisted of casting out the devils within.

Yet the church maintains that demons are not just metaphorical, but can, if rarely, actually inhabit the physical bodies of human beings, and to this day practices a rite of exorcism to dispel them.

And while it may take months or even years of exorcisms to “liberate” a person from a demonic presence, the church’s solemn ritual of exorcism can be a formidable weapon against such evil.

These are key ideas in Matt Baglio’s book, “The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist.” In it he recounts the experiences of Father Gary Thomas, a likable California pastor, who answered his bishop’s call to take a course in Rome about demonic possession and took part in more than 80 exorcisms along with veteran Italian exorcists.

Baglio, a reporter who has written for The Associated Press and the International Herald Tribune and lives in Rome, met Father Thomas there in the fall of 2005. The two developed a warm friendship that led to the priest’s full cooperation with the reporter as he progressed through his apprenticeship as an exorcist.

The article Baglio had originally planned to write grew into a book that delves not only into eyewitness accounts of Father Thomas’ journey as he learned to cast out demons, but also the history of exorcism’s rites and rituals, portraits of those said to be possessed by demons and a discussion of the role of angels, devils, satanic cults and curses.

Many people think that exorcists see demons everywhere, but as Baglio writes in a fascinating chapter, the opposite is much more likely.

The church’s guidelines urge prudence and emphasize the importance of “discernment of spirits,” which is considered to be a gift of the Holy Spirit.

The church further “gives three signs that indicate the possible presence of a demon: abnormal strength, the ability to speak or understand a previously unknown language, and the knowledge of hidden things,” Baglio continues.

Because many mental illnesses could be mistakenly interpreted as evidence of possession, it is typical, Baglio reports, “that an exorcist will have a team of

individuals (a psychiatrist, psychologist and perhaps a neurologist) that he trusts to help him with discernment.”

Baglio has good storytelling instincts and avoids sensationalizing his topic. Still, his description of dramatic changes in a possessed person’s vocal intonation during one of Father Thomas’ “apprentice” exorcisms is chilling:

“As Father Carmine continued with the prayers, a low guttural growl began to emanate from Sister Janica. Father Gary studied her, trying to determine its source. ... It sounded like the noise a dog makes when it’s getting ready to bite someone.

“From his reading he did know that it was possible for a demon to attack an exorcist during the ritual. ... He had no idea what he would do if something violent like that occurred.”

Father Thomas is shown here in all of his initial skepticism that eventually gave way to a deeper understanding of the nature of evil. Indeed, his experiences led him to a profound change in his approach to his calling, because they “expos(ed) him to a level of human suffering that he never knew existed.”

At the same time, he emerged with a great sense of hope, because he found that the exorcism ritual truly worked: “Even though evil existed in the world, there was a way to defeat it.”

In the end, “The Rite” won’t quell all skepticism about this subject; consider that physicians still use a specialized term, “demonomania,” to describe a mental illness in which the patient has a delusion of being possessed by evil spirits.

But overall the book illuminates one of the world’s most long-standing and mysterious phenomena.

Interestingly, writing the book occasioned a profound change in the author, who credits the experience with turning him from being a “cultural” Catholic back to a practicing one.

In many ways, Baglio writes, this is what exorcists themselves aim to accomplish: to help the demon-possessed return to the sacraments and so, by strengthening the practice of their faith, empower them to resist evil.

Roberts is a professor of journalism and communication at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and the author of several books.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 17, 2009

May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1-4
- 2) 1 John 4:7-10
Gospel: John 15:9-17

God is a friend who loves us always

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Junior high is one of the hardest times in life. Try, if you can, to remember those awkward times.

I remember craving attention but being mortified when I received it. I wanted girls to like me but had no idea what to do when one smiled at me.

I desperately wanted friends and would do almost anything to be seen as cool.

Those days were filled with a deep longing to fit in and be loved.

It is with this in mind that our parish offers a junior high overnight retreat on Good Friday.

The reading of the Passion and veneration of the cross set the scene for this spiritual exercise.

After the solemn services we head into a lock-in that focuses on the sacrifice Jesus offered for us on the cross.

As we go through life, we discover that Jesus is many things to us. Who he is to us and the role we see him in varies with our need.

Sometimes we need him as our Lord, such as when we really need someone to take care of us. Other times we feel our need for a savior or a healer.

Sometimes we revert back to those early adolescent days of greatly needing a friend.

It is this last aspect of Jesus that we zero in on at our overnight retreat.

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus reveals the depth of his friendship when he says, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends.”

Armed with these words we lead the youth through a series of reflections, activities and testimonies aimed at helping them see the love Jesus has for them and the lengths to which he will go to be their friend.

The evening culminates with a chance for them to sign their name on a large wooden cross as a sign of accepting Jesus’ offer of friendship.

Whether we are in eighth grade or 80 years old, we all need a reminder from time to time that Jesus is not only the God who created everything seen and unseen, but he is also the God who is a friend who loves us to death.

Questions:

What characteristics of a true friend do you think best describe Jesus in his role as a friend?

In what ways do you experience Jesus’ friendship?

How does it feel to know that Jesus calls you a friend?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends” (John 15:13-14).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10-16

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8; Monday, Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; Tuesday (St. Nereus, St. Achilleus, St. Pancras), Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; Wednesday (Our Lady of Fatima), Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; Thursday (St. Matthias), Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; Friday (St. Isidore), Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; Saturday, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17-23

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17; Monday (St. John 1), Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; Tuesday, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; Wednesday (St. Bernardine), Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday (The Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Mark 16:15-20; Friday (St. Rita of Cascia), Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; Saturday, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

'Angels and Demons' fails to generate Vatican outrage

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — On the eve of its world premiere, "Angels and Demons" was a film in desperate search of controversy.

At a press conference in Rome May 3, director Ron Howard tried to pick a fight with the Vatican, suggesting that the long arm of the Holy See was somehow behind unspecified problems in shooting the film, a pseudo-religious thriller based in Rome.

The Vatican wasn't taking the bait, though. The only real criticism in Italy on the eve of the film's premiere came from a 102-year-old Italian bishop — not exactly the kind of publicity storm that marketing gurus dream about.

Tom Hanks, the film's star, put his finger on the problem at the press conference when he was asked if the movie's marketing people might try to exploit potential conflict with the Vatican.

"Every movie is exploited by the marketing people. There's no such thing as a movie that is not exploited by the marketing people," Hanks said.

"The marketing department of any studio would love to be able to create controversy over their films. But they can't do it on their own; they need a partner," he said.

The movie, based on a novel by Dan Brown, was set to premiere in Rome May 4, and was to open in the United States May 15.

It tells the tale of a secret society that kidnaps papal candidates at the start of a conclave, forcing the Vatican to turn to the mystery-solving symbolologist Robert Langdon, played by Hanks.

Howard began the press conference with a string of vague accusations against the Vatican. It seemed, he said, that "sort of through back channels and so forth, the Vatican had exerted some influence" to prevent the crews from shooting scenes in a couple of areas where a particular church was in the background.

"I suppose we could have contested this. We didn't," he said.

He added that a screening of the film — or a reception, he wasn't quite sure — was moved away from a venue near St. Peter's Square, "and I suppose the Vatican had some sort of influence over that."

"Was I surprised? No. Am I a little frustrated by it at times? Sure," Howard said.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, declined to comment on Howard's accusations, saying they were merely designed to generate publicity for the film.

Howard also cited the case of retired Italian Bishop Antonio Mennonna, 102 years old, who has signed a legal complaint saying the movie is full of historical inaccuracies and misrepresentations of Christianity.

Howard said his company had earlier offered to screen the film for some bishops and others, but that the invitation was never taken up. In any case, he said, if anyone feels the film will be offensive to them, they shouldn't see it.

That prompted Hanks, who had tongue in cheek throughout the press conference, to interject: "No, no, don't even go! Stay away please! We beg of you!"

Hanks had fun with other inquiries designed to provoke debate with the church. After a reminder to keep questions germane to the film, one reporter asked Hanks if he were a spiritual person and what he thought about the recent controversy over the pope and condoms.

Hanks responded: "Oh, that's germane to the film. I am a spiritual man and because I'm happily married for 21 years, I really don't know what a condom is anymore."

Howard, who directed "The Da Vinci Code," also based on a Dan Brown novel, said that whatever church leaders may think of these books and films, many people find that it gets them thinking about what they believe.



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO, REUTERS

Director Ron Howard (left) and actor Tom Hanks (center) joke with author Dan Brown at the world premiere of the movie "Angels & Demons" in Rome May 4.

As a result, he said, church attendance swells and Bible study groups spring up.

"I think that's a positive and constructive thing," he said.

Brown, who made a rare public appearance at the press conference, said he first got the idea for "Angels and Demons" while on a tour near the Vatican.

The tour guide mentioned that popes once had to flee along a Roman passageway to escape their enemies, and that got Brown thinking about the scientific "enemies" of the Vatican, which he said "seemed like too good an idea to let go."

In the book "Angels and Demons," modern members of a secret society called the Illuminati plan to destroy the Vatican with antimatter.

The Illuminati were a group formed in Bavaria in the late 1700s that historians say survived for only nine years. Conspiracy buffs have speculated that the Illuminati exist yet today, secretly controlling world events.

Brown was asked whether he really

believed the Illuminati still exist.

"Did they ever?" he said abruptly. Then he added a defense of his approach to his novels.

"These are fictional stories built around real-world topics. And these stories, it is my hope, spark a lot of interest and research on people's own, to figure out what in these stories is fictional, what is real," he said.

Several weeks ago, Archbishop Velasio De Paolis, president of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, signaled that the Vatican would not be jumping into a debate over "Angels and Demons."

He said people should be cautious about "the boomerang effect" of calling for a boycott because it could translate into unintended publicity for the movie.

He said the Vatican wasn't worried about people of faith falling for the book and movie's anti-Christian inventions.

"The Vatican believes Christians are strong — inoculated by centuries of persecution and testimonials of faith," he said.

Catholic high school wins visit from pop star in text-message contest

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Sweat pouring down his face and an "I heart TS" tattoo on his upper arm, Geoffrey Oldland touched the hand of country and pop sensation Taylor Swift not once but twice, as she bid the students of Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria a heartfelt goodbye after a 70-minute private concert.

"It was awesome," said Oldland, a senior who sat in the third row for the show Swift did April 28 for the school that won a Verizon text-messaging contest.

Deafening cheers erupted from the students as they welcomed the 19-year-old star onto their auditorium stage and proceeded to jump up and down for the better part of the next hour.

Even teachers got into the show, clapping along and taking pictures on their cell phones as Swift played a list of hits, many off her second and most recent album, "Fearless."

"I can't believe it was real," said Fiona Carroll, following the show.

Principal Tim Hamer said Swift's song, "The Best Day," was true for the school. "This was very much the best day for us," he said. "It's very much a David and Goliath story," with a Catholic high school winning a contest in which thousands of schools — many of them much larger — participated.

As Bishop Ireton students waited for the concert to begin, they could hone their texting skills even further by

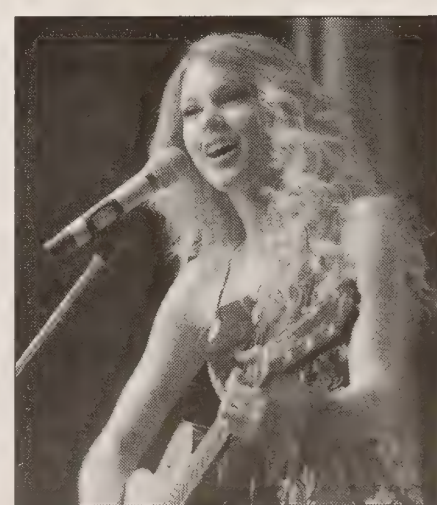
sending messages to their friends via their cell phones and having them appear on a screen behind the stage.

That's all part of Swift "going mobile" on her U.S. tour, with opportunities for fans to win additional texting contests, download songs and virtually sing with the star.

In the nearly three years since Swift released her first single, "Tim McGraw," the artist has experienced a dramatic rise to fame. Swift was nominated for a 2008 Grammy Award for best new artist and won album of the year for "Fearless" at the 44th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in April.

Her first single from that album, "Love Story," has earned accolades from both country and pop audiences — and got wild applause at the end of her show at Bishop Ireton.

As one student said: "It's Taylor Swift! We all love her."



CNS PHOTO BY JONATHAN TRAMONTANA

Singer Taylor Swift performs at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va., April 28. Students beat out other schools in a text-messaging contest to win a visit from the award-winning singer.

Confirming faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Confirmation candidates at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle prepare food Jan. 18 for Stanly Community Christian Ministries' Community Table, which provides hot meals to those in need. The community service was part of the youths' Jan. 18-19 "Called by Name" retreat, which focused on being disciples of Christ in the world and active members of the Catholic community.

After providing meals for approximately 60 people, the youths participated in group activities at the church, including eucharistic adoration, Mass and games.



COURTESY PHOTO

Exploring the Eucharist

First Communion candidates at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte create "monstrances" with their parents during a retreat April 4. During the retreat, the children learned about the transforming power of the Eucharist, and about the vessels and vestments used during Mass.

Forty-one children celebrated their first Communion during Mass at the church May 2. Augustinian Father Russell Ortega, pastor, celebrated the Mass; Augustinian Father Anthony Tomasulo, parochial vicar, concelebrated.

Crowning Mary



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grader Daniel Nelli assists second-grader Carly Kurtiak as she places a crown on a statue of Mary outside St. Michael School in Gastonia May 4. Students who have made or will make their first Communion this year led the school in the annual May crowning ceremony. The month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning of Mary and praying the rosary.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Lauren Gentile (third from left), 2009 North Carolina Junior National Teenager winner, volunteers at the Children's Church at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville May 3.

Catholic girl wins crown, helps others in parish and community

FAITH, from page 1

I've got schoolwork, volunteer work and my crown duties," she said.

Her duties include an upcoming tea at a Charlotte orphanage, where the winners from all divisions of the American National Teenager Scholarship Organization will meet with girls at the facility and "adopt" little sisters for the day.

"It makes me feel good when I see people smile," Lauren said. "When I would go out with this one woman at the Life Care Center, we would read and I could see how doing the smallest things to help people makes a difference."

Life Care Center offers services for the elderly.

In addition to volunteering at the center, Lauren assists with her parish's Children's Church, which shares Sunday's readings with 3-, 4- and 5-year-old kids, and at the Mainstay resale shop, which benefits domestic abuse victims.

Last year Lauren and her mother spent a week working with a multid denominational summer camp program in which Immaculate Conception Church participated with other local churches.

Her father, Larry, recently accompanied Lauren to an audition at Hendersonville Little Theatre, where Lauren won a role in "Gypsy." And at her urging, Larry found himself onstage performing for the first time since high school.

Lauren also has worked at the Flat Rock Playhouse in their production of

"Orphan Train" and hopes to continue studying acting with the playhouse.

"In high school I would like to be part of the conservatory group at the playhouse. You get a taste of what it's like to be an equity actor," she said.

Lauren's goals also include studying for her bachelor's degree in musical theatre at Elon University. She is currently an honor student and Beta Group member at Rugby Middle School, and her mother, Mary, hopes the academic achievements continue to be important.

Additionally, Lauren will compete for the national crown in July.

Lauren's family offers her continuous support.

"Her brother Christopher acted as her escort for one of the gown portions of a previous pageant," she said, "and both her brothers are very proud of her. And her dad is busting at the seams."

"We are a loving family, and I think that has a lot to do with our faith," added her mother. "We try to raise our children with the same Catholic values we were brought up with."

"Church keeps me going," said Lauren, who is currently studying for her confirmation in the fall.

When she won the North Carolina Junior National Teenager title and scholarship, Lauren also won the talent portion of the program and won for her speech about setting good examples for other teens.

Following in the footsteps of the Franciscans at Immaculate Conception Church, Lauren said her work within the community follows the admonition of St. Francis himself: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."

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Battle of the brains



COURTESY PHOTO

The MACS Academic Games national team is pictured in Knoxville, Tenn., where they competed in the 2009 Academic Games National Tournament April 24-27. Pictured are Brooke Dandurand, Angeline-Marie Morales, Kathryn-Grace Smith, Grayson Hahn, Anthony Charlonis, Meghan Santschi, Uwa Akhere, Christopher Anderson, Jonathan Wilson, Luke Santschi, Christian Chapman and Tyler Caponigro.

MACS Academic Games national team earns top honors

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Mecklenburg Area Catholic School (MACS) Academic Games national team received top awards at the 2009 Academic Games National Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn. April 24-27.

Twelve students from four schools (St. Patrick, St. Gabriel and Our Lady of the Assumption elementary schools and Holy Trinity Middle School) qualified to represent MACS in the elementary division of the tournament.

Academic Games League of America (AGLOA) is a nonprofit organization which provides a series of Academic Games competitions throughout the

nation resulting in a National Championship Tournament in late April each year. Academic Games tournaments challenge students to use higher order thinking skills in the subjects of Language Arts, English, History and Mathematics.

AGLOA welcomes any student in grades 4-12 to join and play Academic Games. A student may play as an individual but most play in teams of five.

The MACS team traveled to Tennessee under the supervision of Allana-Rae Ramkissoon, MACS Academic Games league head coach and principal of Our Lady of Assumption School, and Mary Morales, MACS Academic Games league national team head coach and parent volunteer.

The MACS team was divided into groups and competed in three competition categories within the elementary division: presidents, propaganda and equations. They placed highest in the presidents and propaganda games with groups placing first and fourth in the presidents game and first in the propaganda game.

They also received many of the top 10 individual awards for both competitions in which they competed against 300 students from leagues across the country.

"The time and dedication to studying facts about our presidents, as well as learning about propaganda, is inspiring," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"These young people, representing grades three through six in MACS, brought pride to themselves, the MACS system and our entire diocese," Cherry said. "We look forward to expanding Academic Games within MACS and the other areas of our diocese."



COURTESY PHOTO

Youths and adults take part in the 1K race, part of Asheville Catholic School's annual Shamrock Run March 14.

Shamrock Run raises funds for Asheville Catholic School

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students and adults took part in Asheville Catholic School's third annual Shamrock Run March 14.

The Shamrock Run, which consists of 10K, 5K and 1K "fun run" races, raises funds for the school's drama and physical education departments.

Mercy Sister Maria Goretti Weldon,

who serves as the mission and values advocate for Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation, started the races. Father John Schneider, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, led the race on his bicycle while Irish music played over a loudspeaker.

New this year was a contest with prizes for the best Irish, Leprechaun or shamrock-themed race outfit. Prizes include certificates and gear from local restaurants and venues.

Off to the races



COURTESY PHOTO

Runners take part in the 14th annual Fun Run sponsored by St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem March 21. More than 800 runners participated in the 5K and 1-mile runs, with proceeds benefiting school programs. Race prizes include items donated by local retailers. A pre-race pasta dinner, co-sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 2829, was held March 20.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The common denominator in murder-suicides, mass killings

Some people are not mindful that God is the ultimate provider

A man whose wife was one of the victims of the April 5 massacre in Binghamton, N.Y., that left 14 dead asked, "What is it about American society that keeps turning out these kinds of people (mass murderers)? What is it about our society that keeps driving people to do things like this?"

Following the Binghamton murders, fingers pointed in all directions: too many guns, the recession, foreigners unable to cope with culture shock, copycats stimulated by high-profile killings.

As much as we'd like to understand the workings of evil or anticipate it through homeland security or other precautions, we cannot.

Evil becomes manifest when a heart ceases to resist it; it is a person-by-person choice not restricted to race or gender.

But there is, I believe, a common denominator in all incidences of mass killings and murder-suicides: self-sufficiency that is not mindful that God is the ultimate provider.

People who are overwhelmingly self-sufficient may not always be conscious of it. They simply do what they have to do to live.

They work, manage their homes, provide for dependent family members, indulge in recreation where possible, save for a rainy day.

There is nothing wrong with this. In fact, there is a degree of comfort in the ebb and flow of routine that caters to one's flesh, that offers rest and sanctuary at the end of a grueling day.

Self-sufficient people may even go to church, acknowledging God.

Eventually, however, they betray that they don't truly "depend" on almighty God, who can make a way out of no way.

This becomes evident when they are cornered by a problem they can't see a way around without giving up even the most modest of lifestyles.

They know no other way to live.

There are other aspects of self-sufficiency that are less apparent but nonetheless destructive.

The dependency of family members on a self-sufficient man, for example, can feed his ego so much that he cannot bear to fall from grace in their eyes, even if his fall was not because of something he did wrong.

I dismiss the possibility that those who commit murder-suicide do so to spare their families pain.

What do they know about another's pain when the only pain that seems to matter is their own?

For that matter, what do they know

Bridging Gaps

CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
CNS COLUMNIST



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Messages and remembrances are seen April 21 on the porch of a Middletown, Md., house where five members of a family died in a murder-suicide.

of love when genuine love gives life?

It doesn't snuff it out.

Then there are the self-possessed who are impatient with others in society who do not view life as they view it, who would rather terrorize and destroy lives rather than allow the seeds of truly worthy ideas to take root and grow.

What is the antidote to crippling self-sufficiency?

A crash course in humility before God, coupled with thankfulness.

It is freeing to acknowledge our God-dependency over self-sufficiency, offering gratitude for blessings often taken for granted: family, caring neighbors, loyal friends, health, safety, the freedom in the United States to worship God wherever and whenever, the kindness of strangers, the opportunity to give more than we take, hope that help will come, the unfathomable possibilities of each new day.

There is a lot on our horizons that is scary: the flu pandemic, the domino effect of the recession, Internet predators, threats of escalating wars, to name just a few.

But only one response matters, however: putting down our "to do" lists and humbling ourselves before our powerful, loving, merciful, magnanimous and unpredictable God who has said all along, "The battle is mine."

Why Catholics leave the church

Those who return often seek a spiritual home

There are many reasons why Catholics leave the church.

More than 90 percent leave because of the human element of the church. The other 10 percent probably never believed in the divine element in the first place.

Faith is a gift. If you try to bring back lapsed Catholics, be careful. As a rule, they don't like any kind of pressure.

For instance, if you say jokingly, "When are you coming back to the church?" you might hear, "Back to what, the same old stuff?"

Many of them have been hurt, offended or scandalized by priests and bishops; some may have had a scrupulous parent who smothered them.

Better to "speak more to God about them, than to them about God." This was the advice St. Ambrose gave to St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, when he lapsed into heresy as a young man.

She persevered in her prayers, and he eventually became a saint.

Many estranged Catholics are totally indifferent to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Jesuit theologian Father Karl Rahner once said, "For too many people, Christianity has become another 'ism,' an ideology, an abstraction, and abstractions have no need of a mother."

Those who do return after years of estrangement often tell us that they did not come back because of prodding or intellectual arguments. Rather, they found themselves looking for something that was missing in their lives; namely, a spiritual home.

This is where Mary comes in to play; a home needs a mother in it.

When people experience hard times they often say a Hail Mary, and when their prayers are answered the seeds of faith begin to bloom again. The contempt they once felt for the institutional church seems to become inconsequential.

They soon realize that the Catholic Church is the only organization in the world that truly honors the mother of Jesus as he wants her honored. Mary is the mother of the mystical body of Christ and therefore our spiritual mother.

"Honor thy mother" is a divine commandment, and Mary had a two-fold

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



vocation; namely, to receive Jesus into her body, and then to give him away to the world for our salvation.

This is essentially our vocation too.

After the Second Vatican Council, many priests began preaching that the council eliminated our so-called "exaggerated devotion" to Mary, but what they failed to explain was all that Mary really means to us.

To the objection of our Protestant brothers — namely that Christians do not need Mary because Jesus alone is Lord — we have this answer from the pen of Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens:

"It is true, Mary plays no role in the transmission of sacramental grace, i.e., she never interferes in the priest's absolution; however, in Lourdes and elsewhere, she gently urges the pilgrims to go to confession and receive holy Communion."

In Scripture, Mary says, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5). Far from getting in the way, she points us to Jesus. The cynicism of disbelievers does not affect the truth.

I have been broadcasting 30-second radio spots on more than 1,000 radio stations carried on the Westwood One radio network for about 20 years. My sole purpose in creating this ministry called St. Jude Media is to tell my listeners from Maine to Hawaii that God loves them and that they can trust him, especially when he says, "Be not afraid."

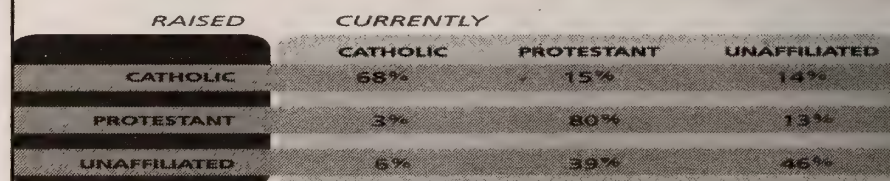
This is the good news of the Gospel.

Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people" who never strayed (Lk 15:7).

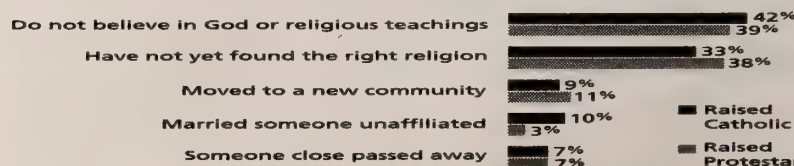
I take him at his word.

Keeping the Faith

More than two-thirds of U.S. Catholics stay in the church. The rest turn to Protestant denominations or become unaffiliated with a church altogether.



REASONS PEOPLE BECOME UNAFFILIATED WITH A CHURCH



Telephone interviews conducted from Oct. 3-Nov. 7, 2008, with a national sample of 2,867 adults. Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

©2009 CNS

It is not without precedent

Greed is root of all evil, source of current global economic crisis

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, in a recent speech to the Economic Club of Washington, said the global economic crisis is unprecedented.

No, it is not.

"Never before in modern times has so much of the world been simultaneously hit by a confluence of economic and financial turmoil such as we are now living through," Geithner said.

There is precedent for almost any event, a point oft overlooked in an era when nostalgia begins where the last decade ends.

It has happened, but until communication made it known, it wasn't known.

A person could live and die in Europe, never knowing of a catastrophic failure of silkworms in China; a drought in Africa would never be known to a settler on the prairies of the United States.

Now, with the exponential increase in the speed of communication, a flu outbreak in Mexico can topple the stock prices in Mumbai, India, within minutes.

Even Pope Benedict XVI admits to difficulty in keeping up with the rapid change.

The pope has been preparing an

encyclical on the economy that some reports said was to be published in March or by Easter.

The pope said the complexity of the current situation is the reason for delay, and that he did not want to give simplistic answers to questions of global economy.

"We must denounce this with courage, but also with concreteness because moralizing will not help if it is not supported by an understanding of reality, which also will help us to understand what can be done concretely to change the situation," he told a group of priests in February.

While bankers and financiers look for the cause in such things as securitization, mortgage-backed assets and derivatives, expect the papal encyclical to be based on the institutional memory and historical understanding offered by the church.

The cause: greed.

The solution: justice.

Greed is the root of all evil, the source of the current global economic crisis, Pope Benedict said in an April audience.

Earlier in February he said the crisis proves original sin really exists.

"If it did not exist we could appeal to reason, lucidly with arguments that are accessible to all and incontestable, and to

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



the good will of everyone," he said.

Expect the encyclical to address more than the economic system. Things can be better but not perfect. Change will result not from new laws but from just people.

"Justice cannot be created only with economic reforms, which are necessary, but it also requires the presence of just people," the pope said. "As long as original sin exists we will never have a radical and total correction, but we must do all that we can to achieve at least a provisional, sufficient correction that would permit humanity to live and would be an obstacle to selfishness."

"People, including the rich, must fight against greed, against the desire for appearances and against the false sense of freedom," he continued. Everyone, rich and poor, "must find the right path of truth, of love and therefore of the principled life."

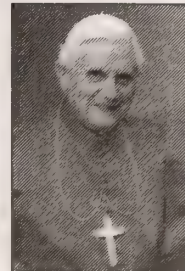
The encyclical will be new but not unprecedented.

The precedent for that teaching can be found over 2,000 years ago.

Pope, at audience, says he wants to promote peace, unity in Holy Land

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Using the media present at his weekly general audience to address the people of Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Pope Benedict XVI said that he hoped to promote peace and unity during his eight-day visit to the region.

"I am eagerly looking forward to being with you and to sharing with you your aspirations and hopes as well as your pains and struggles," the pope told the region's people May 6, just two days before he was to begin his trip.

After his main audience talk about the teachings of St. John Damascene, Pope Benedict turned directly to the cameras to tell the people of the Holy Land that he would make his visit as a pilgrim of peace.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. John Damascene was a towering figure in the history of Eastern theology.

He was born into a wealthy Christian family at a time when his native Syria was already under Arab rule. He left a promising career in government in order to enter monastic life.

His best-known works are his Discourses against the Iconoclasts, which offer an important contribution to the proper theological understanding of the veneration of sacred images.

St. John Damascene was among the first to distinguish between adoration, which is due to God alone, and veneration, which can rightly be given to an image in order to assist the Christian to contemplate him whom the image represents.

It is true that in the Old Testament, divine images were strictly forbidden. But now that God has become incarnate and has assumed visible, material form in Jesus, matter has received a new dignity.

The wood of the cross, the book of the Gospels, the altar of sacrifice: all have been used by God to bring about our salvation.

Matter now serves as a sign and sacrament of our encounter with God. When we participate in the sacraments, when we venerate icons, if we do so in faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit, they truly become a means of grace.

Despite human sinfulness, God has chosen to dwell within men and women, making them holy, making them sharers in his infinite goodness and holiness. Let us welcome him with joy into our hearts.

Story captures sister's spirit

I was delighted to read the story about Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams ("Like nun other: Mercy sister breaks mold, brings Catholicism to unlikely venue," May 1).

Although my family now belongs to Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, when we first moved here we went to St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Sister Larretta was one of the first people we met.

She was a pastoral associate there at the time, and she was very welcoming and friendly, and made us feel at home even though we didn't know anybody there.

Your story about her work at Wake Forest was extremely well written. I felt that it gave the reader a good insight into what Sister Larretta does for the students, and a good feel for the kind of person she is.

Thank you for the wonderful human interest story.

— Jim Grace
Rural Hall

Courage to protect all is needed

In response to the letter to the editor that "Obama does care about nuclear annihilation" (May 1), let us be mindful

Letters to the Editor

that the instinct for self preservation is present in all of nature from animals to man. Even the communist or atheist who has no belief in God do not desire their own nuclear annihilation.

The moral issue is the protection of all human life from the tiny embryo to the elderly. So let us be careful on how much admiration and honor we are willing to give to those who do not desire to protect human life in all its forms.

How many times our human nature rationalizes something is good for some convenience when it is really not. Courage for the truth is what is needed.

— Joan Kalna
Matthews

Love and forgiveness — the Christian way

The right to life is fundamental to all other rights. Some people disagree, however. Can we not learn to forgive them as Jesus did while he was on the cross and his life was being taken away from him?

He said, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23: 34). As Christians, can we not follow his example of forgiveness?

When Corrie Ten Boom was confronted with forgiving the

concentration camp prison guard who had, during her interment at Auschwitz, abused her, she said, "I cannot forgive him, Lord, but you can."

By giving the situation over to him, she was able to forgive.

Let us therefore not quench the spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). Before we confront or address a wrong, could we not find it within ourselves to forgive the perpetrators and heed the Holy Spirit Jesus sent us for our guidance?

— Robin and Bill Ach
Winston-Salem

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

As the smoke clears

Bishop visits Catholic families who lost homes in S.C. wildfires

BY CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Joseph Gosiewski removed a carefully folded tissue from his pocket. Inside it, he said, were symbols of his Catholic faith.

They are among the few possessions remaining after a fire destroyed the home he shared with his wife, Nancy.

"There's the rosary I got for my first holy Communion, and the St. Joseph and St. Patrick medals that were put on my baby's crib," said Gosiewski, pointing to a singed but still recognizable rosary and two scorched medals held together by a safety pin.

The Gosiewskis' home was one of about 150 that were destroyed or seriously damaged when wildfires tore through the coastal beach area of South Carolina April 22-23.

The retired couple, members of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in North Myrtle Beach, was one of seven families at the parish whose homes were destroyed. No one was injured or killed in the fires.



CNS PHOTO BY KEITH JACOBS, CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston, S.C., speaks with Joseph Gosiewski as they stand in the ruins of the Gosiewski family's home in North Myrtle Beach May 1. The home was destroyed by wildfires that raged through the South Carolina town in late April. The Gosiewskis, members of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, are one of seven families from the parish who lost their homes in the blazes.

Our Lady Star of the Sea families spent the afternoon of May 3 with Charleston Bishop Robert E.

Guglielmone, who visited the parish to celebrate Mass, meet with parishioners and tour the burned areas of nearby Barefoot Resort which was particularly hard-hit by the wildfires.

Father Robert Higgins, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, said the parish has received and contributed to funds to help the fire victims. The parish community raised \$21,000 through special collections, Catholic Charities supplied \$10,000 and St. Andrew Church in Myrtle Beach collected \$3,000.

Donations of food, clothing and furniture have also poured in to the church. Father Higgins said furniture and other items originally slated for the parish's annual garage sale will instead be given to the fire victims.

At the beginning of the May 3 Mass, Bishop Guglielmone told the congregation he "simply wanted to come and be with you where there was a loss, such fear and such trauma with these terrible fires."

He said he wanted to offer his own support and the support of the diocese.

"It is a very fearful thing to see fire approaching and not know what is going to happen," he added.

In his homily he urged parishioners to take to heart the image of Jesus as a shepherd. "Jesus presents himself as a model for his disciples ... we all need to shepherd each other, to seek out those who are lost and suffering," he said. "We are all in this together."

After Mass, Bishop Guglielmone met with some of the families and attended a private luncheon. He also visited the Gosiewskis' damaged home and other destruction in the area with the couple and their pastor.

The Gosiewskis moved into their home last year after they retired. The couple, who had lived in Delaware, decided to live in a coastal community after Nancy survived two bouts with cancer.

"When she got a clean bill in 2006, we decided to make a fresh start, because life's too short," Joseph Gosiewski told The Catholic Miscellany, diocesan newspaper of Charleston.

They were awakened the night of April 23 by a warning signal. They looked out and saw a wall of flame approaching from the thick woods behind their three-bedroom, one-story home.

The couple fled the area by car as soon as they saw the fire.

"To me, it was the most horrific thing I've ever experienced ... to see the fire so close," Nancy Gosiewski said.

They lost everything, from important papers and photographs to furniture, clothing and keepsakes.

"Losing the pictures is what hurts, but there's nothing you can do," she said, adding she has found comfort in keepsakes that were spared from the flames. She found a locket her father had given her and a collectible figurine.

She and her husband said the material losses can be replaced. They are thankful they survived and for the help they've received from their church and the community.

"Every morning when I open my eyes, I say thank you to God that I'm alive and my friends are alive," Joseph Gosiewski said. "It's also the last thing I say at night."

Limited space!
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Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Catholic Social Services invites you to join the

FIRST ANNUAL "RIDE FOR RICHES"

This motorcycle ride supports the Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS) program in the Triad Region which offers pregnancy preventions for 5th and 6th graders and help to first-time teen parents. Proceeds from the "Ride for Riches" will help send students to a week-long summer sleep-away camp. Without your support many of these children will never have the opportunity to attend such a camp and create lasting memories and friendships.

Saturday, May 16

10 am - 3pm (register from 8-10am)

Cost: \$20 (or \$15 each for groups of 5 or more)
Snake Ranch Cycles, 4357 S. NC Hwy 89, Walnut Cove, NC

NOTE: Driver's license and insurance proof required at registration. Please bring 2 or more canned goods to support our food pantry.

To pre-register, sponsor or contribute, contact
Katisha Blackwell: (336)714-3205;
kdbblackwell@charlottediocese.org; or www.cssnc.org.



CSS

Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte



Listening to the voices of Appalachia

Committee works
to create awareness,
address concerns

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CANDLER — "O Lord, we
come together today to listen
to the voices of Appalachia,
including those of the natural
world; to become informed about
issues relevant to the church's
presence in Appalachia; to
address the causes of poverty in
Appalachia; and to promote
justice and dignity in
accordance with Catholic social
teaching. Bless and guide our
work here today. Amen."

Thus did members of the
North Carolina Chapter of
the Catholic Committee of
Appalachia (CCA) pray at their

See CCA, page 7

Building bridges, tearing down walls



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas shake hands in front of the controversial Israeli security barrier during a visit to the Aida Refugee Camp near the West Bank town of Bethlehem May 13. The pope called the fortified Israeli wall a tragic symbol of deadlock in the struggle for peace in the Middle East.

Pope takes Holy Land
peace pilgrimage to
city of Christ's birth

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Visiting the Palestinian city of Bethlehem during his Holy Land pilgrimage, Pope Benedict XVI called for an independent Palestinian state and urged young people to reject acts of violence and terrorism.

The pope celebrated Mass May 13 in the city of Christ's birth and encouraged Christians to help rebuild their homeland's "spiritual infrastructure."

"Be a bridge of dialogue and constructive cooperation in the building of a culture of peace to replace the present stalemate of fear, aggression and frustration," he said in his homily.

See POPE, page 8



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Zachery Brakefield (right) gives instructions during a script read-through at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia May 7.

Lights, camera, action, prayer

Young man starts Catholic production company

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

GASTONIA — On paper, Zachery Brakefield is an entrepreneur. But perhaps a better word to describe him is visionary.

Within the past year, he single-handedly started his own production company with the goal of creating quality

Catholic films.

It all started about a year ago when he made a 30-minute film on the American Revolution for a school project.

Brakefield, a parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, enjoyed the project so much that he

See MOVIE, page 5

Helping in the healing

Ministry assists
grieving families

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — "Rose's Ministry helps begin the healing process," said Sandy Donecho, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

See MINISTRY, page 6

Culture Watch

Book on spiritual quests;
student film on microlending

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In Our Schools

Students win awards, help
others through outreach

| PAGES 12-13

The last frontier

Peruvian bishops fight to
protect Amazon region

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SUFFERING THE AFTER-EFFECTS



CNS PHOTO BY JASON LEE, REUTERS

Earthquake survivors stand at Donghekou Earthquake Site Park, a memorial to victims of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, in Qingchuan county, China, May 11. China was marking the one-year anniversary of the May 12 Sichuan earthquake that devastated parts of the country's southwest.

A year later, suicide risk remains high among Chinese quake survivors

SHIJIAZHUANG, China (CNS) — One year after the deadly Sichuan earthquake, Catholic workers are focusing on the psychological needs of tens of thousands of survivors at risk of suicide.

The church-run Jinde Charities in Shijiazhuang — which sent the first group of medically trained nuns to the disaster area after the May 12, 2008, quake — is counseling survivors and helping them to rebuild their homes, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Psychologists believe the quake's first anniversary could trigger more suicides than traditional celebrations of Chinese festivals that remind survivors of their families.

Father Paul Han Qingping, Jinde's deputy director, told UCA News that his agency is providing counseling and other services at several makeshift schools and shelters.

Two local government officials in Beichuan have killed themselves — one last October and another in April — according to media reports. No one knows exactly why, but the two men, ages 33 and 40, were grieving over the deaths of their sons in the quake and were working on the reconstruction of the area.

A Catholic nun who helped with relief work following the disaster said that some survivors had hanged themselves at their homes or from trees or had jumped from cliffs or buildings.

Chinese psychologists estimate that

3 percent to 5 percent of the victims — about 360,000 to 600,000 people — are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Up to 10 percent of survivors would have suicidal tendencies, according to psychologists.

Catholic nuns and agency workers have responded by providing regular counseling to victims.

Father Han said quake-related suicides "make us more conscious of the significance and urgency of our work."

"Even if our intervention helps only one person, it would be a success," said Father Han, who visited Sichuan several times after the quake struck.

Jinde staff members often work with the local government and other nonreligious agencies. They also cooperate with the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences by offering psychological counseling courses for local officials and teachers to help them in their efforts to aid quake victims and students.

Father Han said that Jinde workers do not explicitly express their religious identity while helping in relief work, but when "we get in touch with and accompany the psychologically wounded victims, our faith would be shown naturally."

As of March 31, Jinde had given 23.3 million yuan (\$3.4 million) for earthquake relief work. The Vatican and the Caritas network, the church's international relief arm, are among those providing aid.

Bishops launch new campaign against embryonic stem cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the National Institutes of Health continued to gather comments on the draft guidelines that would permit federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a new campaign urging support for ethical cures and treatments "we can all live with."

The "Oppose Destructive Stem Cell Research" campaign at www.usccb.org/stemcellcampaign also encourages Web users to contact Congress and NIH to express opposition to the draft guidelines.

May 26 is the NIH deadline for public comment on the draft guidelines, which would allow the use of federal funds for stem cell research on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and later discarded.

Donald Raibovsky, a NIH spokesman, said a total of 13,503 comments on the stem cell guidelines

had been received as of May 8.

The home page for the bishops' new campaign outlines the reasons that the proposed guidelines are considered unacceptable and provides links to USCCB resources on stem cell research in English and Spanish.

In a video on the site, Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the U.S. bishops "will be writing to Congress and the administration about the need to restore and maintain barriers against the mistreatment of human life in the name of science, and we urge other concerned citizens to do the same."

"Even if, like the embryos targeted by the NIH policy, an embryo may be at risk of being abandoned by his or her parents in a fertility clinic, that does not give researchers or the government a right to kill that human being — much less a right to make the rest of us subsidize that destructive agenda," the campaign materials say.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A parish retreat featuring guest speaker Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., May 24-27, each evening at 7 p.m. Topics covered will include "To be born again," "The healing love of Jesus," "The call to be church" and "Our response to the call." The retreat is free and open to the public. For more information, call Deacon Roland Geoffroy at (704) 289-2773, ext. 240.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting a series of eight talks by Father Rick DeClue on "The Mind of the Pope: Benedict the XVI on Major Topics." The talks will be held the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish activity center. The last session is May 25. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call Ruben Tamayo at (704) 554-7088, ext. 222.

CHARLOTTE — All adults are invited to attend the *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, May 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center gym. Join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere. There is no charge; however, donations are accepted. To reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy at (704) 400-2213 by May 22.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Gabriel in Transition* (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be May 26 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 7-9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Tom Lane, one of Charlotte's leaders in career development. Networking and one-on-one coaching sessions will follow the speaker. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *respect life Mass* will be celebrated May 23 at 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass and an opportunity to pray the rosary with Father Timothy Reid, pastor, at a local abortion facility. The morning will conclude with Benediction upon Father Reid's return. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will celebrate a *Missa Cantata* May 21, the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, at 7 p.m. *Missa Cantata*, Latin for "sung Mass," is a Mass in the extraordinary form in which the liturgical

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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MAY 15, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 27

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope thanks Swiss Guard for dedicated, loyal service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI underlined the Swiss Guard's important task of protecting the pope and watching over the Vatican.

The Guard must keep watch over the Apostolic Palace and be vigilant and kind to all those who enter, the pope said.

But, most importantly, the Guard must "faithfully, loyally and honorably serve the supreme pontiff and sacrifice, if necessary, their lives for him," he said.

The pope's comments came May 7 during a special audience with Swiss Guards and 32 new recruits.

New soldiers are sworn in during a colorful ceremony at the Vatican every May 6 to commemorate the day 150 Swiss Guards died saving Pope Clement VII's life during the sack of Rome on that

date in 1527.

Today, the Swiss Guard numbers 110 men, but that may someday change.

The Swiss Guard's new commander has reiterated that he is open to the possibility of allowing female recruits.

Col. Daniel Anrig, who was named by the pope in December to head the Guard, told Italian television May 5 that letting women join the elite papal guard "may be possible."

Anrig said if the corps were to include women it would happen in the distant future.

The main problem, he said, is logistical: Where would the female guards be housed when there is only one barracks?

Having young men and women share the same living quarters "could create problems, but every problem can be solved," he said.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Contemplative living and nonviolence, a one-day workshop based on the life of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, will be held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, May 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program will be led by J. Patrick Mahon, who studies and teaches extensively on peacemaking and justice seeking. There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is encouraged. To register, call (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwrc@bellsouth.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad gather on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open or fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or katie_knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

'Angels and Demons' is harmless entertainment, Vatican newspaper says

ROME (CNS) — The newly premiered movie "Angels and Demons" is little more than "harmless entertainment," with many factual errors and little cultural value, according to the Vatican newspaper.

Two dispassionate articles in L'Osservatore Romano May 7 may disappoint the film's promoters, who had sought a conflict with the Vatican of the type that surrounded "The Da Vinci Code" in 2006. Both films are based on books by author Dan Brown.

An editorial in the paper called both the film and the book "modest" and "rather innocuous." An accompanying review said that viewers "must face two hours of harmless entertainment that has little to do with the genius and mystery of Christianity, without getting beyond the usual stereotypes."

The review said the film was "pretentious" but actually complimented the "dynamic direction" and "splendid photography," and said the computer and studio reconstructions of the Vatican,

Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica, which were off limits to filming, were "magnificent."

The film, an action mystery involving the kidnapping of cardinals from a papal conclave by a secret Catholic sect, is the second collaboration between director Ron Howard and Brown, with Tom Hanks again in the starring role. It was shown May 4 at a glitzy affair at Rome's Auditorium performing arts complex.

The Vatican newspaper editorial acknowledged that the two books and films dealt with hot-button issues: the church and sexuality in the case of "The Da Vinci Code" and faith and science with "Angels and Demons."

L'Osservatore Romano's editor, Gian Maria Vian, said "Angels and Demons" posed no danger to the church.

"It only confirms the centuries-old fascination with our faith and our symbols," he said, adding, "If only all anti-Catholic operations were like this one."

The movie is set to debut in U.S. movie theaters May 15.

Smiles and solidarity



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan enjoys a light moment with Rabbi Gilbert S. Rosenthal (center), executive director of the National Council of Synagogues, and retired Rabbi Alvin K. Berkun of Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh following a prayer service for Catholic and Jewish leaders hosted by the archbishop at his residence in New York May 12. The service, held after a meeting of the Consultation of the National Council of Synagogues and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was arranged to express the solidarity of the service's participants with Pope Benedict XVI during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Clinton's remarks on reproductive rights spark Catholic concern

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's remarks expanding the definition of reproductive rights to include abortion have sparked criticism and warnings from a U.S. church official and a Catholic congressman.

Clinton's comments are a "real threat" to U.S.-based international aid agencies, such as Catholic Relief Services, which do not promote or provide abortions, said Deirdre McQuade of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

On Capitol Hill in late April, Clinton responded to a series of questions from Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a leading pro-

life member of Congress and a Catholic.

"Reproductive health includes access to abortion," Clinton said. "We are now an administration that will protect the rights of women, including their rights to reproductive health care."

In an interview with CNS, Smith said if U.S. dollars from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the U.S. Agency for International Development sponsor reproductive health care that must include abortion, then countries and organizations with pro-life policies could be forced to change their policies to include abortion in order to receive U.S. funding.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 17 (5:30 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

May 18-19
LARCUM Conference
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

May 20 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

May 24 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

Teen constructs prayer garden

BOONE — Anastasia Wilkinson, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone, completed construction of a prayer garden at the church.

The garden, part of Anastasia's Girl Scout Gold Award project, was dedicated March 29 by Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor.

Designed in the shape of a cross, the garden features Stations of the Cross, benches and urns of flowers. A path through the surrounding wooded area eventually will be turned into a "contemplative trail" by parishioner Alan Craft as part of his Boy Scout Eagle rank project.

With the assistance of her family, Anastasia, 17, began working on the

prayer garden in the summer of 2008 after completing other components of her Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouts earned through service projects that demonstrate organizational skills and leadership.

Anastasia, a member of Girl Scout Troop 492, has been active in Scouting for 12 years.

"The parish would like to congratulate Anastasia on achieving her Gold Award and thank her for this beautiful contribution to our parish grounds," said Louise Ochoa, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church.

"It (the garden) is sure to be used and enjoyed for many years to come," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anastasia Wilkinson is pictured in November 2008 in the prayer garden she constructed at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone as part of her Girl Scouts Gold Award project.

Winning words



COURTESY PHOTO

Kathryn Hodges, a 12th-grader from Morning Side High School in Boone, receives a certificate of merit and a \$150 check from Maryknoll Father Robert Jalbert at the school April 7. Kathryn was a third-place winner in the Maryknoll Essay Contest, this year themed "You Will Be My Witnesses," and one of six student winners out of 5,000 entries.

Margaret Gaughan, managing editor of Maryknoll magazine and one of the contest judges, noted that this year's entries indicate today's young people are very aware of Christ at work in their midst.

"Many of them see Christ in parents who not only sacrifice for their own families but also volunteer their time for others, in grandparents who serve as role models through their faith and devotion, and in peers who do the right thing even if it means risking popularity," she said.

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers — formally known as the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America — was founded in 1911 with the support of the U.S. bishops to be the chief mission outreach of the U.S. church. Maryknoll currently serves in 27 countries worldwide.

Pure style



COURTESY PHOTOS BY RALPH MELVIN

Above: Janie Warstler (left), a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, and Elizabeth Beltz, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, model fashion on a runway during the Pure Fashion Show at the Charlotte Convention Center April 25.

Approximately 730 people attended the show, the culmination of a program in which teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 18 learned the value of dressing and acting modestly in accordance with their dignity as children of God.

Pure Fashion is sponsored by Regnum Christi, an apostolic Catholic movement associated with the Legionaries of Christ.

Below: Madison Welborne and her father, Neil, parishioners of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, walk the runway during the show. Madison was the winner of the program's dress design competition and is modeling her creation.



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FROM THE COVER

Young man starts Catholic production company

MOVIE, from page 1

thought, "Maybe this is what God is calling me to do."

He took the necessary steps required for opening a business, acquired a tax ID number and designed his own Web site.

Now he is head of operations for his production company — Divine Intervention Films.

And he did all that before his 18th birthday.

Brakefield is currently working on his first major production — a film about Maryknoll Father Vincent Capodanno, a Medal of Honor recipient and military chaplain who was killed while performing last rites for dying soldiers in Vietnam.

Patriotism and prayer

Deciding on the subject for his first major film required quite a bit of research on Brakefield's part.

"Zac is a very energetic and intelligent boy who has an interest in the visual arts and the media, and wants to be able to serve the church by using that interest," said Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church and vicar of education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

From the beginning, there were two themes Brakefield wanted to incorporate into his film: Catholicism and war.

"I knew I wanted to have a hero in the movie," said Brakefield, who began by researching Medal of Honor recipients.

When he discovered Father Capodanno, Brakefield said he knew "this is the guy I want to make a movie about."

The film will chronicle the last three weeks of Father Capodanno's life during the Vietnam War.

"I want people to know how much



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS

Maryknoll Father Vincent Capodanno is pictured in an undated black-and-white file photo.

this man of God was willing to sacrifice for others and how we should all strive to be like that," said Brakefield.

"Zachery has a drive and a passion for anything that he feels called to do," said Theresa Webster, faith formation director at St. Michael the Archangel Church and script writer for the Father Capodanno film.

"Last summer I was talking with Zac and his mother," said Webster, recalling how she got involved in the project. "They were looking for a writer and they wanted to try me."

In terms of research, Webster said she read "The Grunt Padre," a biography about Father Capodanno, and did research on the Vietnam War. But for the most part she relies on prayer.

Brakefield relies heavily on his faith, as well.

"During my first production, everything kept falling into place and I just knew God was looking out for me," said Brakefield. "We all kept saying it is divine intervention."

"He prays over everything," said Webster. "It seems that God places the right people in front of him."

Father Capodanno known as a 'servant of God'

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Maryknoll Father Vincent Capodanno was killed on the battlefield in Vietnam a little more than 40 years ago.

Known for his extraordinary service as a chaplain during the Vietnam War, Father Capodanno was killed Sept. 4, 1967, by sniper fire while administering last rites to dying Marines.

According to a biography on the Web site of the military archdiocese, Marines affectionately called Father Capodanno "the 'grunt padre' for his ability to relate well with soldiers and his willingness to risk his life to

minister to the men."

"Grunt" is slang for a member of the U.S. infantry.

He extended his one-year tour of duty in Vietnam by six months to continue serving with his men.

Father Capodanno was posthumously awarded the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

In June 2006 his canonization cause was formally opened and he now has the title "servant of God."

Since his death, several chapels and a U.S. Navy frigate have been named in his honor.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Zachery Brakefield (center) is pictured with Glenn Yellico and Theresa Webster during a script read-through at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia May 7. Webster wrote the script and Yellico will play Father Vincent Capodanno in the film being produced by Brakefield's production company, Divine Intervention Films.

Divine direction

One such person is Dave Jordan, military technical advisor for the film.

Brakefield met Jordan through the South Carolina National Guard, 178 Engineering Battalion, in Rock Hill, S.C. They were there to welcome returning military veterans from Afghanistan.

"Dave had about 100 flags for people to hold," said Brakefield. "So I went up and asked him for a flag. He gave me one and we began talking."

Another instrumental person in the project is David Rabideau, composer of the soundtrack and score for the Father Capodanno movie.

The two met through homeschool activities and are members of the church youth group. Like Brakefield, Rabideau is only 17 years old.

"Zac has a great leadership ability that stems from his maturing in the faith," said Father Arnsperger. "He is able to organize the generosity of these other young people and adults around him."

"He's so charismatic about everything that he just draws you in," said Webster. "It's a pleasure working with him."

Brakefield estimates that he spends about 30 hours a week working on film-related tasks. That is in addition to keeping up with his schoolwork and working part-time at a bagel shop in Rock Hill.

Brakefield also occupies his time talking to Vietnam vets about Father Capodanno.

One goal of the Father Capodanno film is to pay tribute to these men and women of the armed forces for the great sacrifices they make.

"I want to be able to show them that new generations support them and what they did in giving their lives for our country," he said of his presentations to Marine Corps Leagues and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Brakefield hopes also to bring recognition to Father Capodanno and

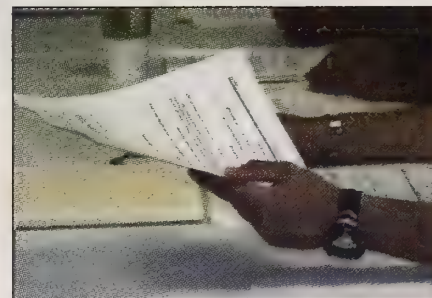


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Zachery Brakefield passes out a revised version of the script for his movie about Father Vincent Capodanno during a read-through at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia May 7.

further his cause for canonization.

While the Father Capodanno film is in the fundraising and pre-production phases, Brakefield is occupying himself with a smaller project — a series of educational DVDs on the seven sacraments.

Father Arnsperger will narrate the films, which will be used during Catholic faith and culture camps at the church this summer.

"He is producing these to help with the theme of the Eucharistic Congress, 'The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us,'" Father Arnsperger said, and to show that "God dwells with us through the sacraments."

"His effort with all of this stems from a very deep and growing spirituality," said Father Arnsperger.

Brakefield turned 18 on May 10. In the fall he will begin classes at Belmont Abbey College and will continue to work on the Father Capodanno film.

In terms of what is in store for the future, Brakefield said he plans to continue relying on faith.

"If God wants me to make this film, it's going to happen," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Divine Intervention Films, go online to www.divineinterventionfilms.com

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Confirming faith

Teenagers learn about faith, unity during sacrament preparations

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — The 2009 confirmation class at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville reflects the diversity of the parish.

Of the 77 candidates, 40 come from Hispanic heritages.

Due to language barriers, two separate confirmation classes — one in English, one in Spanish — were formed. But this year the two will be working closer together.

In addition to introducing texts in both English and Spanish, the teachers have planned a number of activities and social events to foster unity and

appreciation between the cultures while teaching the important connections based on their shared faith.

As such, the candidates' parents are encouraged to help foster their children's spiritual growth and to discern the priority that faith must play in their lives.

"With a class this size, they are all at different levels of faith commitment, but they feed off each other and make it work," said Sandy Donecho, who works with the English-speaking candidates.

The confirmation students gathered for a retreat at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville May 2.

A family picnic is planned this summer and another social event will be held in September.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Confirmation candidates from Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville take part in a retreat at the Kanuga Conference Center May 2.

Growing Catholics



COURTESY PHOTO BY RAYMOND TABER

Bishop Peter J. Jugis lays hands on confirmation candidates during a Mass at Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy May 8.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Sandy Donecho and Mary Ann Owen of Rose's Ministry prepare a reception after a funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Ministry helps grieving families

MINISTRY, from page 1

When her mother, Rose Fiumara, died last year on May 15, Donecho realized how important the support offered by her parish family was in her grieving and healing process.

"The day of her funeral, when friends, family and the people from the parish came together, someone asked me if there was anything available at the church (for families)," said Donecho.

She found her grief leading to action.

"We called it Rose's Ministry because it was at the reception for my mother that the Holy Spirit gave me the idea," said Donecho.

This June, the ministry will celebrate its first anniversary with a bi-annual potluck luncheon at the church.

Over the past year, upon request the ministry — funded entirely through donations and comprised of eight teams, each consisting of at least 10 volunteers — has served several parish families by providing cake and coffee receptions after funeral Masses.

Wearing aprons embroidered with a single red rose, the volunteers offer compassionate service by allowing grieving families to share the

consolation of friends and family at the church while all the preparation for and clean up of the receptions are handled for them.

"People who are grieving feel embraced through this," said Donecho. "We need that healing process; without it we can't move on. What better place for it to begin than here (at Immaculate Conception)?"

Donecho contacted local funeral homes to help inform Catholics about Rose's Ministry. When there is an interest, Donecho is contacted and a team is put into place to handle all the details for the family.

"There has been a need for a long time," said Mary Ann Owens, co-chair of one of the teams of volunteers. "Sandy's mom passed and the Lord used her to start this."

Donecho said the ministry is one of comfort and support.

"Through embracing your faith, you bring people close to your heart," she said. "Here it's like a hug from Jesus."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Rose's Ministry, contact Sandy Donecho at (828) 697-7420. Those interested are welcome to join members and new volunteers at the luncheon at Immaculate Conception Church at 12 p.m. June 11.

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THE CATHOLIC
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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Committee works to create awareness, address concerns in Appalachia

CCA, from page 1

third meeting at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler May 4.

They came from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte: Asheville, Bryson City, Charlotte, Hayesville, Hickory, Maggie Valley and Murphy.

"I have a strong interest in social justice issues," said David Tilly, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City. "We have a responsibility for all people."

"It's wonderful to be with like-minded people," said his wife, Cathy.

Bernie Offerman and his wife, Jan, are parishioners at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. They're in the chapter because membership "brings home to us in North Carolina concerns about global warming and mountaintop removal."

"These are 200 million-year-old mountains," he said. "We have to make it a point to stay in touch and be aware."

CCA's North Carolina Chapter formed last September.

"One of the purposes of the chapters in the different states is to create awareness about Appalachia and the problems of Appalachia," said Mary Herr, chair of the North Carolina Chapter, CCA's vice chair and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church.

DID YOU KNOW?

Appalachia covers 205,000 square miles, comprising all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

The Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal-state partnership, noted on its Web site that about 23.6 million people live in the 420 counties of the Appalachian region.

Most of the counties in the Diocese of Charlotte are part of Appalachia.

At its first meeting, the chapter identified issues of concern in North Carolina: the economy — including poverty; kinship care and lack of transportation; recycling and environmental concerns; and comprehensive immigration reform.

Members agreed to address one or more of these issues by promoting recycling, talking with Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes about the concerns, being more present to immigrants, volunteering to teach people about climate change, collecting food for a local food pantry, delving into issues of homelessness and working on a DVD about climate change and immigration reform.

At the May meeting, members talked about what progress they had made. For example, Claudie Burchfield, director of the diocese's Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, reported the kinship care program is under way in her area. Attendees from Asheville are delving into the consequences of Interstate 3, which would go through Asheville and allow for truck transport of hazardous waste.

Augustinian Father John Denny, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland in Maggie Valley, said he had given "green" grocery bags to the parish's faith formation classes and had the church's lighting changed to more energy-efficient bulbs.

Father Denny has been St. Margaret of Scotland's pastor for 18 months.

"I became aware at one of the (Smoky Mountain) vicariate meetings that Mary Herr was starting a chapter of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia," he said. "I thought it would be a good way for me, a relative newcomer, to learn about the struggles and the issues of the Catholic Church in Appalachia."

The CCA-sponsored fourth annual Bishop Begley Conference will be held at St. William Church in Murphy Oct. 23-25. The theme is "Building Ecumenical Relationships in Appalachia."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.



COURTESY PHOTO BY KARYNLEE BERSTECHE

Biologist Rob Gudger and his 12-year-old wolf, Mohican, visit with participants of a Cherokee spirituality retreat in Cherokee March 13. The retreat was sponsored by the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, visit www.ccappal.org.

ABOUT THE CCA

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia, founded in 1970, is headquartered in Spencer, W.Va. The CCA:

- promotes Catholic social teaching in the region;
- collaborates with dioceses, parishes and other organizations to advance social and environmental justice;
- offers spiritual and educational opportunities such as Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia, the Cherokee spirituality retreat/seminar, religious education materials on climate change and the Religious Leaders Forum on Mountaintop Removal;
- publishes and distributes both of the Appalachian bishops' pastoral letters: "This Land is Home to Me: A Pastoral Message on Poverty and Powerlessness in Appalachia" and "At Home in the Web of Life: A Pastoral Message on Sustainable Community in Appalachia."

Parishioner sentenced for embezzlement

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

BELMONT — A 73-year-old woman has been sentenced for embezzling funds from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont. Evelyn Graham, a former bookkeeper at the church, was sentenced in Gaston County Superior Court April 28.

Graham pleaded guilty to forging more than 100 checks totaling \$126,000 from the parish from March 2004 to October 2007. She was arrested in December 2007.

Financial irregularities at the church were suspected by Jack Morris, parish finance council chairman, and were later confirmed by a diocesan audit.

Graham was sentenced to six months of house arrest, five years of probation and 400 hours of community service. She also was ordered to pay restitution to the church at a rate of \$50 per month.

At that rate, it will take her 210 years to make full restitution. However, the embezzled funds have been restored to the parish through insurance.

Father Frank Cancro, pastor, was not assigned to the parish while the embezzlement occurred but stressed the need for careful monitoring of financial accounts in all parishes.

"We were confronted by a clever and crafty individual who established trusting, friendly relationships, seemingly as part of a bigger plan to defraud the parish," he said. "It should be clear that this was not an isolated event, but a long-term, calculated process."

Morris, commended the work of the parish finance council.

"We are doing things now that were not being done before. People trust in churches, but it is important to do things such as checking reconciliations on a regular basis," he said.

"Things (at the parish) are in very good shape now," he added.

Custom blessings



COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners of Slovak, Polish and Ukrainian descents are pictured with items for their Easter dinners at St. James the Great Church in Concord April 11. The families brought the food to the church to be blessed by Redemptorist Father Joseph Dionne, pastor, as part of a European custom of having a priest bless the Easter meal.



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Pope takes Holy Land peace pilgrimage trip

POPE, from page 1

The pope was on the sixth day of an eight-day "pilgrimage of peace" that had already taken him to Jordan and Jerusalem. Throughout his visit, he urged the region's peoples and its religious leaders to set aside historic antagonisms and make serious new dialogue efforts.

Nearly 100 Christians from the war-devastated Gaza Strip attended the Mass in Manger Square. The pope said his heart went out to them, and he prayed that the Israeli embargo on the strip would soon be lifted.

The pope crossed the border from Israel into the West Bank through a gate that stood beneath the most striking feature on the landscape: Israel's 26-foot-tall concrete security wall.

Speaking at the Aida Refugee Camp later in the day, he said the wall symbolized the stalemate between Israelis and Palestinians.

"In a world where more and more borders are being opened up — to trade, to travel, to movement of peoples, to cultural exchanges — it is tragic to see walls still being erected. How we long to see the fruits of the much more difficult task of building peace," he said.

The pope met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the presidential palace in Bethlehem and paid a visit to the church-run Caritas Children's Hospital, where he visited an infants ward.

In Israel

The 82-year-old pontiff came to Israel from Jordan May 11.

At an airport welcoming ceremony in Tel Aviv, Israel, he said he wanted to honor the memory of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and "to pray that humanity will never again witness a crime of such magnitude."

"Sadly, anti-Semitism continues to rear its ugly head in many parts of the world. This is totally unacceptable," he said.

Meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres in Jerusalem the same day, the pope spoke about the sensitive topic of security, saying the term needs to be understood not simply as "the absence of threat" but as inseparable from justice and peace.

In a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Pope Benedict XVI prayed silently before the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance and said the suffering of Jews under the Nazi extermination campaign must "never be denied, belittled or forgotten."

The pope called the Holocaust an atrocity that disgraced mankind and said the church is committed to working tirelessly "to ensure that hatred will never reign in the hearts of men again."

He met with six Holocaust survivors, who later expressed their appreciation for the pope's gesture. But some Jewish leaders said they were disappointed

"Hear the cry of the afflicted ... send peace upon his Holy Land."

— excerpt from a written prayer by Pope Benedict XVI left at the Western Wall

that the German pope made no mention in his talk of the Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust.

That evening, the pope told a group of interreligious dialogue experts that, in a world that has in some ways become "deaf to the divine," religions must give common witness to God's rightful place in the world.

The event was marred by a Muslim sheik's denunciation of Israeli policies, which prompted some Jewish representatives to walk out.

On May 12, the pope celebrated an open-air Mass in Jerusalem, prayed at the Western Wall and visited one of Islam's most sacred shrines. The events underscored his message that Jerusalem, a meeting ground for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, must again become a city of peace.

The pope also made a morning visit to the Dome of the Rock, sacred to Muslims as the place from which Mohammed ascended to heaven. He told Islamic leaders there that Christians, Muslims and Jews have a "grave responsibility" to expand dialogue and mend divisions.

The pope then went to the Western Wall, a site sacred to Jews as the remains of the Second Temple, and placed a written prayer in a crevice between the massive stones.

It asked God to "hear the cry of the afflicted" and "send your peace upon this Holy Land."

In the evening, the pope celebrated Mass for several thousand people in the Josafat Valley beneath the Mount of Olives, next to the walls of the Old City.

In his homily, he called for Jerusalem to regain its vocation "as a prophecy and promise of that universal reconciliation and peace which God desires for the whole human family."

Sadly, in today's Jerusalem, he said, "hope continues to battle despair, frustration and cynicism, while the peace which is God's gift and call continues to be threatened by selfishness, conflict, division and the burden of past wrongs."

Like many papal events, the Mass was tinged with politics. Welcoming the pope, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem said Palestinians dream of a "free and independent" state of their own while the people of Israel dream of living



Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest prayer site, in the Old City of Jerusalem upon the Middle East, upon the entire human family."

in peace and security.

In Jordan

The pope began his eight-day trip in Jordan, where he walked a pilgrim's path, energizing its minority Christian population and building bridges to the moderate Muslim world.

Arriving at Amman's airport May 8 he said he had come with "deep respect" for the Muslim community. It was Pope

Benedict's first trip to an Arab country.

The pope paid tribute to interfaith dialogues launched by Jordanian leaders, saying they have advanced an "alliance of civilizations between the West and the Muslim world, confounding the predictions of those who consider violence and conflict inevitable."

The following day, the pope visited the King Hussein Mosque in Amman, pausing briefly in what the Vatican called



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CNS PHOTO BY CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope left a written prayer in a crevice of the wall. It appealed to God to bring "your peace upon this Holy Land,

"respectful meditation" in a Muslim place of prayer.

In a speech afterward to Muslim academics and religious leaders, the pope warned of the "ideological manipulation of religion" that can act as a catalyst for tensions and violence in contemporary societies.

The pope traveled May 9 to Mount Nebo, the place where Moses glimpsed the Promised Land before dying, and rode his popemobile to the ancient biblical city of Madaba, where he blessed the foundation of the first Catholic university in Jordan.

The pope's Mass May 10 in an

Amman soccer stadium that holds 25,000 people was the liturgical high point of his visit to Jordan.

In his homily, the pope said Christians in the Holy Land have a special vocation to engage in dialogue and build new bridges to other religions and cultures, and to "counter ways of thinking which justify taking innocent lives."

Later in the day the pope made his way to the Jordan River, where archaeologists believe they have identified the site of Jesus' baptism by St. John the Baptist.

He blessed the foundation stones of two Catholic churches to be built at the location.



CNS PHOTO BY RINA CASTELNUOVO, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI and Israel's President Shimon Peres plant an olive tree, an ancient symbol of peace and prosperity, in the garden of the presidential palace in Jerusalem May 11.



CNS PHOTO BY MUHAMMAD HAMED, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd during his visit to the Regina Pacis Center in Amman, Jordan, May 8. The center is operated by three Comboni Missionary Sisters and a team of teachers, therapists and volunteers who educate and care for Muslims and Christians with disabilities.



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI is accompanied by members of Jordan's royal family May 10 as he visits Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the site near the east bank of the Jordan River believed to be the place Jesus was baptized. Pictured from left is Queen Rania; King Abdullah; the pope; Rustom Mkhjian, director of the baptism site; and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal.

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REVIEWED BY
SISTER MONA CASTELAZO, CSJ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"God Seekers: Twenty Centuries of Christian Spiritualities," by Richard H. Schmidt, and "Touched by God: Ten Monastic Journeys," by Benedictine Sister Laurentia Johns, both present accounts and insights of diverse spiritual quests.

Schmidt offers short biographies, quotations and questions for reflection from early Christianity to the present. Sister Johns has gathered autobiographical writings from 10 contemporary Benedictines who describe their life experiences and their call to religious life.

Schmidt's book not only offers information and inspiration, but also shows the development of Christian consciousness from the fluid, open thought of early Christian theologians to the solidifying of structures, concepts and traditions, to postmodern spirituality — each period reflecting the worldview and theology of its particular era.

We see the early Fathers of the Church, from Irenaeus on, presenting Christ as the logos or word of God, the cosmic eternal mirror of the Father.

Gregory of Nyssa sees God as eternal relationship, eventually drawing all things to himself, while Antony emphasizes silence, simplicity and self-knowledge as ways to God.

The author begins the section on Western Christianity with Augustine's idea of the universality of sin and the necessity of grace, but also includes Patrick and the Celts, who stressed relationship to the earth and to one another.

Benedict's monastic ideal of a balance of study, work, prayer and rest appears in the same period as Symeon, who focuses on personal experience and wisdom as antidotes to the church's becoming too hierarchical, formal and lifeless.

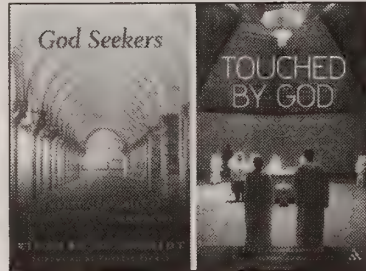
The Orthodox Church followed Symeon's belief in human divinization as the purpose of the Incarnation: "God is fire ... and every human soul is a lamp," he writes.

In the medieval period, Anselm is shown attempting to prove the existence of God from reason. By way of contrast, Bernard of Clairvaux suggests that the Bible be read through the lens of metaphor and symbol in the way of the ancients.

Schmidt includes three major mystics. Julian of Norwich writes that sin results from ignorance and blindness, calling for a mother's mercy rather than for punishment.

Teresa of Avila's garden metaphor describes the spiritual development as beginning with hard personal work, but as ending with the acceptance of God-given rain.

Trappist Father Thomas Merton stresses the necessity of silent contemplation for transformation from the false to the true self.



In the Eastern tradition, Gregory Palamas practices the "prayer of the heart," which contrasts with the intellectual, philosophical approach of set teachings.

Jean-Pierre de Caussade, who sees Christ in every atom of matter and the present moment as a sacrament, is likened to Soren Kierkegaard, who holds that Christianity is "an ordered grasping toward a truth that is ever present," not depending on religious authority or outward forms — "a leap to exist in the fullest sense."

Schmidt truly provides the reader with an inspiring kaleidoscope of eclectic spiritual insights.

"Touched by God" shows the diversity of ways in which specific men and women live the Benedictine life.

Contributors range from a member of the lay community in her 20s who is considering the vowed life to a sister who entered in her 70s after the experience of two marriages, the raising of her children and the responsibility of a prominent job.

All 10 Benedictines show similarities in their experiences prior to entry, such as an early religious education, personal prayer, idealism and a call to surrender to God through study, service and a desire to become fully human in close community living.

All were inspired by the hospitality and humanness of the monks and through reading the Rule of St. Benedict in their search for personal vocation. Their stories are detailed, honest, captivating and often humorous.

Sister Castelazo, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, has taught English for many years in Los Angeles.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 24, 2007

May 24, The Ascension of the Lord

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Individuals make up connected community of God

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm writing this days after celebrating the sacrament of confirmation with 15 young people in our parish.

For me, as coordinator of their sacramental preparation, the confirmation Mass is always a spiritual and emotional "high." This one was no exception.

But only a few weeks earlier, at our final confirmation class, I felt kind of like the disciples in this weekend's readings about Jesus' ascension.

I felt as though I were searching the sky, struck by the feeling that Jesus had "left the building," so to speak. I sensed that our session wasn't clicking. None of us — candidates, catechists, sponsors — seemed to be connecting.

I was disappointed because throughout their preparation this particular group had been extremely engaged in every aspect of the spiritual journey we had shared. What was this emptiness I was feeling?

In retrospect, I think it was my looking for Jesus in the wrong place and forgetting, momentarily, about his promise of how the Holy Spirit comes to us and works with us.

I was reminded of it, though; when we gathered again last week for our confirmation dinner, an annual potluck meal with their families and sponsors to celebrate the young people's impending passage into full participation with us as Jesus' church.

When they arrived, they came with extended family and extra food, and I'd never seen the entire "confirmation community" mix so freely — and this in a group where three of the families spoke little English. The mood was total joy and fellowship.

At the confirmation Mass, I watched each confirmand anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit, saw the excitement in their eyes and bearing, and remembered how God had gifted each one for his or her part of our shared mission to spread the Gospel. I recalled how Kane had deftly, compassionately encouraged a reluctant candidate from another parish on our retreat; how Sandi had decided to go play chess every week with an elderly nursing home resident; how Elizabeth had become a confident cantor; how Erin always had thoughtful words of encouragement for me.

I recognized again: Jesus has ascended to be with the Father, and his Spirit, as promised, continuously comes to us and is with us proclaiming the Gospel.

Questions:

When have you recognized the Holy Spirit proclaiming the Gospel in your faith community? How do you see individual gifts provided by God combining to build up the body of Christ?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons ... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:7-8).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17-23

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17; **Monday (St. John 1)**, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday**, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday (St. Bernardine)**, Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (The Ascension of the Lord)**, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Mark 16:15-20; **Friday (St. Rita of Cascia)**, Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday**, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24-30

Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi)**, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday (St. Philip Neri)**, Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday (St. Augustine of Canterbury)**, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday**, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday**, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday**, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.

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THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Comic actor Dom DeLuise dies at age 75

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Dom DeLuise, the Catholic comic actor who mastered the double-take look of surprise on film, died May 4 at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif., after a long illness. He was 75.

First bursting into national consciousness with guest appearances on TV's "The Gary Moore Show," he cemented his fame with his appearances in some of Mel Brooks' zaniest movie spoofs, including "Blazing Saddles," "Spaceballs," "Silent Movie" and "History of the World Part 1."

DeLuise also partnered with Burt Reynolds in several movies, among them "Smoky and the Bandit II," "The End," "The Cannonball Run" and "Cannonball Run II."

In a 2006 interview with Msgr. James Lisante for the priest's TV show, "Personally Speaking," DeLuise told of his special devotion to Mary.

"People give me Blessed Mothers," DeLuise said in an interview "I have one here, I have one there. I have them all over the house."

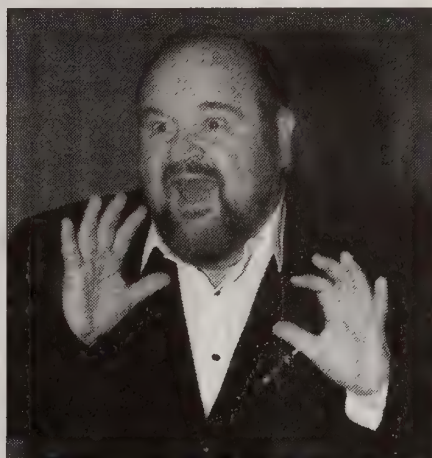
"I said to my wife — before we had all these Blessed Mothers — 'I want a Blessed Mother, but only a small one.' We pull over to the side of the road, and there's a Blessed Mother. But the smallest one was only about 3 feet (tall)."

"I don't mind them. I like them. They give me comfort," DeLuise noted. "The Blessed Mother is someone that I pray to all the time, and in fact, I use her as a mantra. When I'm in my car and there's traffic, 'Hail Mary, full of grace ...,'" he said, reciting the complete prayer. "I say it all the time. It calms me down."

"When I was having surgery, and I was uncomfortable, I said 11 of those in a row, and it just calmed me down," he continued.

"I like the Blessed Mother, and I sure hope to heck she likes me."

When the TV variety show and the daytime chat show were staples of the small screen, DeLuise was a much-sought-after guest. He also racked up 20



CNS PHOTO BY FRED PROUSER, REUTERS

Catholic comic actor Dom DeLuise poses for photographers in 1999 as he arrives for the Museum of Television and Radio gala dinner in Beverly Hills, Calif.

appearances on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson as host, and took his turn on the TV game-show circuit, including "The Match Game" and "Hollywood Squares."

Much of DeLuise's work over the past 15 years had been in children's media, acting on TV series, doing cartoon voice-overs and writing books. DeLuise wrote several cookbooks and children's books and occasionally appeared as a television and radio chef.

His last film role was a cameo in a 3-D shock-movie spoof, "Horrorween," which is still filming.

Former film publicist Robert Elisberg, writing on the Huffington Post Web site, said that in his 15 years of doing favors for Hollywood types, DeLuise was one of only two actors to have written thank-you notes. The other was John Houseman.

"Dom DeLuise was a big man in every way," said Brooks in a statement. "He was big in size and created big laughter and joy. He will be missed in a very big way."

His wife of 43 years, actress Carol Arthur, and their three sons, all actors, Peter, Michael and David, were at his bedside when he died. He also is survived by three grandchildren.

Student film spotlights effort to help poor with microlending

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Nonprofit entrepreneur and college student Andrea Carrow hopes her new documentary will "educate and encourage participation" in what she feels is the underreported issue of microlending in Chile.

The documentary debuted March 30 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

Carrow, 22, a senior at St. Benedict, is from Marshall, Minn. She will graduate this year and expects to continue on for a master's degree in public policy and international affairs.

In 2008, Carrow founded a nonprofit organization called Extending the Link with the help of the Entrepreneurship Center at St. Benedict and St. John's.

The organization produces educational documentaries that raise awareness of global concerns within the St. Benedict and St. John's communities.

St. John's is the brother school to the women's College of St. Benedict.

The documentary, titled "Del Micro al Cambio" ("From the Micro to the Change"), examines microlending, a process in the credit market where organizations, banks or individuals provide small loans to aspiring entrepreneurs to create or develop their small businesses. Microlending is especially common in underdeveloped and developing countries.

"These people can't get loans through a normal bank because they either have no credit history, have no collateral, or the overhead and labor required by the bank is too great to even cover the cost of the small business," Carrow told Catholic News Service.

Production of "Del Micro al Cambio" began in April 2008. Carrow, a Spanish major, spent six weeks in Santiago, Chile, building relationships with microcredit recipients and microlending organizations while the rest of her team

"We're all citizens of the world We want to bring the issue home."

— Andrea Carrow

did research in the United States.

"Chile has a really developed economy for South America. They have a great relationship with the United States, so the organizations we talked to were more receptive to us," Carrow said.

"I also learned how to get inside an organization in a country where it's my second language," added Carrow, who was the main Spanish speaker in her group.

St. Benedict senior Ashleigh Leitch and St. John's seniors Tom Allen and Martin Kronbergs joined Carrow in Chile for two weeks after Christmas to conduct interviews for the documentary.

The four students had a production budget just short of \$10,000. They received grants from the College of St. Benedict Philanthropy Fund, the Undergraduate Student Research Grant at St. Benedict and St. John's, Students in Free Enterprise at St. Benedict and St. John's, and the Target Corp.

"Del Micro al Cambio" shows interviews of the entrepreneur recipients, microlending organizations and professors at St. Benedict and St. John's.

"We looked at the whole spectrum of businesses, but we've cut it down to about four in the documentary," said Carrow.

"One entrepreneur, Lino (Morales), started his business with half a kilo of sugar and a microloan, and now he is manufacturing candy in six cities across Chile," said Carrow.

Microlending organizations hope small business owners can eventually establish enough credit to become self-sufficient.

"We're all citizens of the world, so if it's an issue that affects people in Central Mexico, then it affects you here in the middle of Minnesota. We want to bring the issue home," Carrow said.

Last year, seven students produced a documentary focused on fair trade coffee in Guatemala and called "Somos de Cafe" ("We Are Coffee"). Carrow was the only student from that production team who returned to work on another film project.

The documentary is scheduled to be shown at an entrepreneurship conference in Seattle and again in Dallas.

Editor's note: Andrea Carrow's documentary is available to any interested schools, churches and organizations; copies of the DVD are available by e-mailing Carrow at arcarrow@csbsju.edu.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA CARROW

Nonprofit entrepreneur and college student Andrea Carrow hopes her new documentary will raise awareness of micro-lending programs that helps the world's poor start their own businesses. Carrow is pictured in an undated photo.

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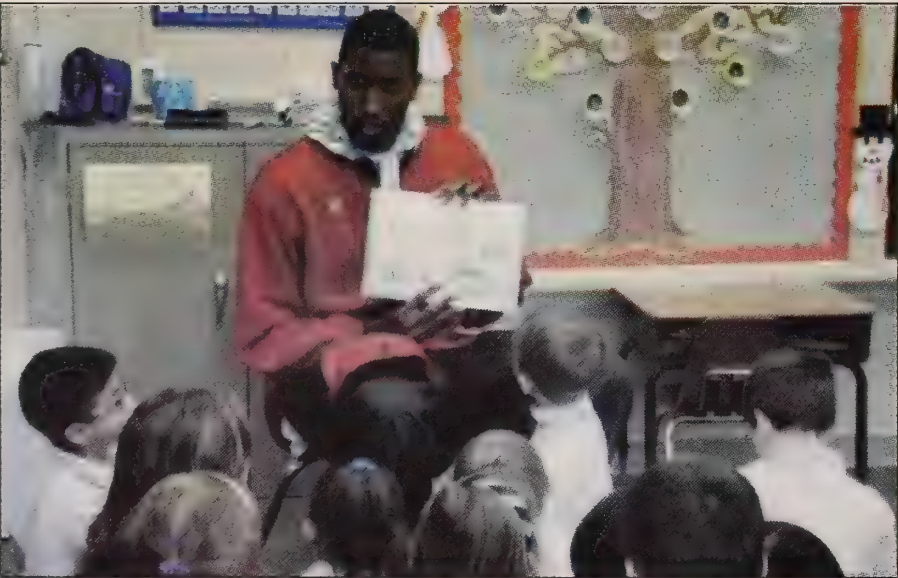
Warming hearts



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured in April with blankets they crocheted for the Winston-Salem chapter of Project Linus, a nonprofit organization that provides blankets to children who are ill or traumatized. The students learned to crochet from parents during Catholic Schools Week in January.

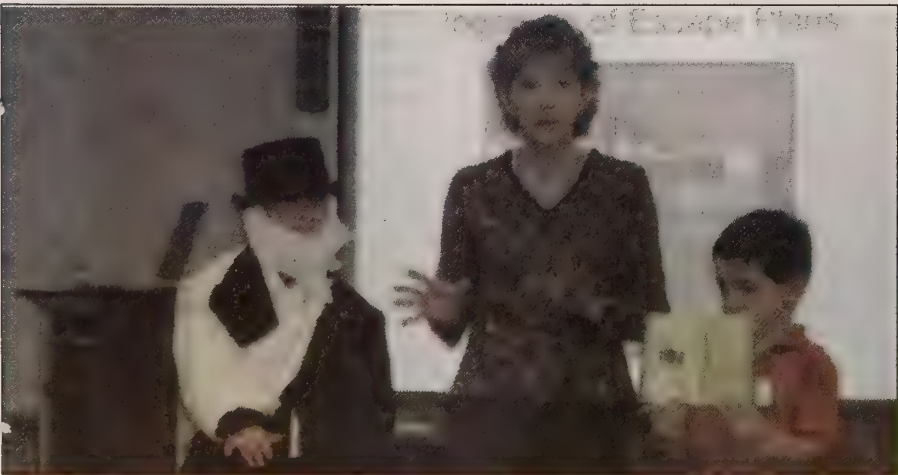
Big words



COURTESY PHOTO

Julian Murphy-Long, senior forward on the Winston-Salem State University Rams basketball team, reads "Much Bigger than Martin" to kindergarten students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Feb. 20. The school librarian chose the book, about a boy trying to find ways to be bigger than his older brother, because of Murphy-Long's height of 6 feet, 9 inches.

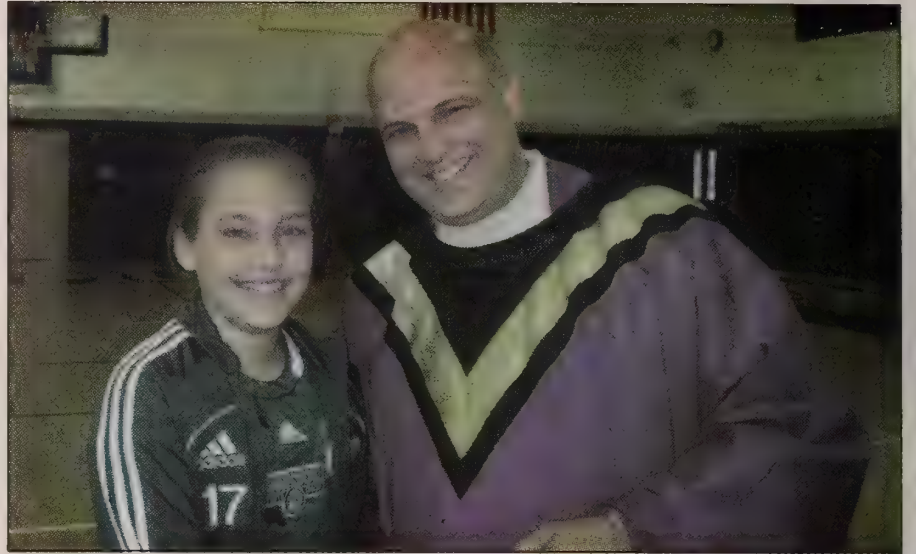
Exploring history



COURTESY PHOTO

Students with costumes and artifacts assist Trish Wagner, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church and author of "It Happened on the Underground Railroad," during her presentation about slavery and the Underground Railroad to second- and third-graders at St. Matthew School in Charlotte Feb. 2.

Student stewards



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, stands with Samantha Sikora, a student of St. Pius X School, after the presentation of the students' Pay It Forward projects March 17.

Msgr. Marcaccio challenged the students to take part in the program by creating and executing plans to amplify \$10 to benefit others in a positive way. Students worked individually and in groups.

Samantha and her friends Ginger Barry and Miranda Wronecki combined their money to bake chocolate chip cookies, which were given away as tokens to those donating to TOPSoccer, a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. The effort raised \$232.

"Doing this project was really fun and made me feel like I have accomplished something big," Samantha told her fellow students. "Making this money is going to make a difference in someone's life."

Another group of students used their money to purchase and plant a flowering bush for an elderly neighbor.

Student John Abram said, "Stewardship is a miraculous thing. Even the smallest of deeds can make a huge difference. You don't have to look very far to help someone."

Great grandparents



COURTESY PHOTO

Kate Warren, a student at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, is pictured with (from left) Pam Warren, her grandmother, Phyllis Colegrove, her great-grandmother, and Janine Doule, her grandmother, during Grandparents' Day at the school May 1. Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church, celebrated Mass with the students and their grandparents before the guests visited the classrooms.

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Book battlers



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are students of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro and the winning team at the Battle of the Books independent schools regional competition held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Feb. 19.

The program, sponsored by the North Carolina School Library Media Association, is for students in grades 6-8 who compete in quiz-bowl-style tournaments to test their knowledge of pre-selected books. The Our Lady of Grace School team competed in the regional competitions March 24 for a shot at the state competition.

Students pictured are (back row) Kable Young, Sydney Cottingham, Alex Bruno, Joseph Farley, Katelyn Merendino, Gabrielle Dimoff; (first row) Jonah Carmichael, Matthew Hamlet, Stratton Barth, Caleb Carmichael and Zachary Shields.

First-place winners



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured March 18 are Sean McCabe (left) and Sean Thomas, eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem and first-place winners in regional competitions. McCabe won the regional science fair at High Point University Feb. 27 and Thomas won the regional National Geographic Bee in February.

Spelling success



COURTESY PHOTO

The classroom representatives who competed in the spelling bee at St. Michael School in Gastonia are seen in this March 5 photograph. Pictured are (from left, standing) fourth-grader Miriam Okonkwo; seventh-grader Brooke Maddie; sixth-grader Nicholas Loya; (seated, from left) third-grader Catherine Wilkinson, second-place winner; eighth-grader Luke Watts, first-place winner; and fifth-grader Austin Purtell, third-place winner. Luke went on to compete against 45 spellers from public, private and homeschools in Gaston County at Gaston College March 19.

Student scientists



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are sixth-grade students of St. Mark School in Huntersville who competed at the 2009 Charlotte Mecklenburg Regional Science Fair. Four of the students took top honors. Pictured are (front, from left) Zachary Kennedy, Alexandria Cedrone, Amor Camacho, Meghan Ducey, Coleen Ducey, Virginia Vasquez-Rios; (back, from left) Alexandria Perini, Hannah Cutlip, Taylor Seger, Michaela Mueller, Matthew Crowell, Jeffery Sisson, Nicholas DoCabo. Not pictured is Danielle Morlando.

Jeffery won first place and Taylor won second place in the biology division, Alexandria Cedrone won second place in the earth science/environmental division and Zachary won second place in the physical science division. The four students qualified to compete in the state competition held in Raleigh March 27-28.

Winning words



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Wanda Garrett is pictured with Andrew DeSalvo, a third-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, who won third place in an essay contest sponsored by Holy Cross Family Ministries in Easton, Mass. Thousands of students from Catholic schools in 17 countries entered drawings, poems and essays expressing this year's theme, "One Spirit, Many Gifts."

Top finalist



COURTESY PHOTO

Timothy Nelson, a senior at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, is one of the top 10 national finalists in the First Freedom Student Competition. More than 2,500 ninth- through 12th-grade students from public, private, parochial and homeschooling regions competed in the national essay contest that examines the history and relevance of religious freedom.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

They call each other 'sister'

Bonds of faith unite two very different women religious

What makes two women sisters?

Blood relationship, of course, makes one type of sisters. But faith can also make women sisters.

Recently my parish took our catechumens and candidates on retreat at a camp run by two nuns who remind me of how the sisterhood of faith is a wonderful thing and a great gift to the church and the world.

Our retreat was at Camp Maria, a youth camp at the water's edge on Breton Bay along the wide part of the Potomac River, just before it spills into the Chesapeake Bay. It is a spectacular spot within an ancient Catholic country. That area was settled by English Catholics in 1635.

Two Sisters of Charity of Nazareth run the camp, Sister Rose Johnson and Sister Mary Angela Hicks. Their order was founded by Mother Catherine Spalding, who was born nearby in 1793.

Sister Rose and Sister Angela are about as different as two women could be. They are from different countries, cultures, races, education and are of different ages. Yet they call each other sister.

Sister Rose was born in 1962 in Belize, the only English-speaking country in Central America. She was the sixth of nine children in a family of African descent.

She speaks English with the pleasant lilt of the Caribbean. She never knew winter in her tropical home.

Sister Rose went to New Jersey to go to college 20 years ago. As a girl she had met nuns in Belize, a heavily Catholic country. Although she was attracted to their life, she put the idea out of her mind.

But she says, "What you resist will persist." The idea of becoming a nun never left her.

Nine years ago Sister Rose took her final vows as a Sister of Charity of Nazareth.

Sister Angela took a zigzag path which brought her back to where she began. She was born in 1936, just a few miles away from where she works today.

At age 18, she entered the convent, but left after nine years. She returned home to the tobacco fields and fishing villages of Southern Maryland.

She married a widower, James Hicks, who already had seven children. At age 27, she was wife and instant mother to seven. They had three more children.

To support 10 children, they farmed, fished and ran a bar. For many years Mary Angela was the bartender. And like me, she has heard a lot of confessions; she just couldn't give absolution.

At age 43, Mary Angela was

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



widowed. She still had children at home. When they were grown, she decided to go back to the convent and took final vows in 1991 at the age of 55.

Her zigzagging was not done yet. When she was 64, she left to be a missionary in Botswana in Africa where she stayed five years. Now she has come full circle and back home to just a few miles from where she was born and raised a family.

Isn't the imagination of God wonderful? Who else would have paired these two in making a life and community together?

These two women from different countries, cultures, ages and race form a religious community, a mini-family of faith. They call each other "sister." I think it's wonderful.

What makes for strong bonds? Sister Rose and Sister Angela know: It is faith.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus asks, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? ... Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Faith makes us family.

Sister Rose and Sister Angela are living proof. We need more like them.

A radical lifestyle re-examined

Living our faith will provide compelling example to be followed

A radical idea was heard once again, this time coincident with the time when Americans were paying their income tax and discussing budget and policy.

There was a time when the community of believers was of one heart and one mind, and no one claimed his possessions were his own, but they held everything in common.

It was quite a community. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them and put the proceeds at the feet of the apostles, who saw to it that they were distributed to each according to need.

People willingly parting with some of their possessions to aid the poor — does this sound familiar?

It is the description of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles (4:32-37). It is easy to listen to that reading and acknowledge that, while very nice, that was then, and today is a very different age.

Not all agree today with the Christian communal concept, as exemplified by this reader's e-mail:

"In November voters were promised anything and everything from their government at the expense of the so-called rich who were now going to start paying more in taxes while the so-called working class would pay less."

A basic tenet of faith of that newly founded community was detachment from material possessions for the good of the greater community. Since it strikes some as redistributionist, even slightly socialistic, this concept finds only a tentative grip on the conscience of the culture.

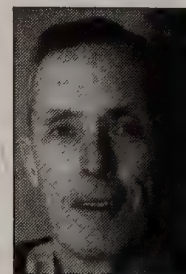
The early church was idealistic, yes. It was not realistic, yes. And yet it is difficult to find any pope or council through the last 2,000 years revoking it for no longer fitting contemporary circumstances.

So if this was a condition at the founding of the church, what changed it? Wouldn't life be better if the practice continued? What went wrong?

Maybe something such as this: Two or three decades ago, a development of a dozen homes was established. The

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



residents agreed that there would be a common green space, no yards at the houses. The community built a picnic area and a playground.

The years went on, more houses were built. Some residents had dogs, so other neighbors erected fences to keep the dogs out. Some objected to people walking over "their" yard to the playground, so they denied access.

The perceived need to protect "their" possessions drove residents to write rules and then to argue over their meaning.

Feelings ran so high that those near the community park weren't concerned that some other residents no longer had access. Those outside the community no longer saw it as a desirable place to live.

This limping analogy describes an organization that so deviated from its founding principles as to make them seem all but unbelievable when recalled later.

Idealistic, yes; realistic, perhaps not; but it is not impossible that the early Christian lifestyle can be restored despite the pessimism expressed by our same e-mail correspondent:

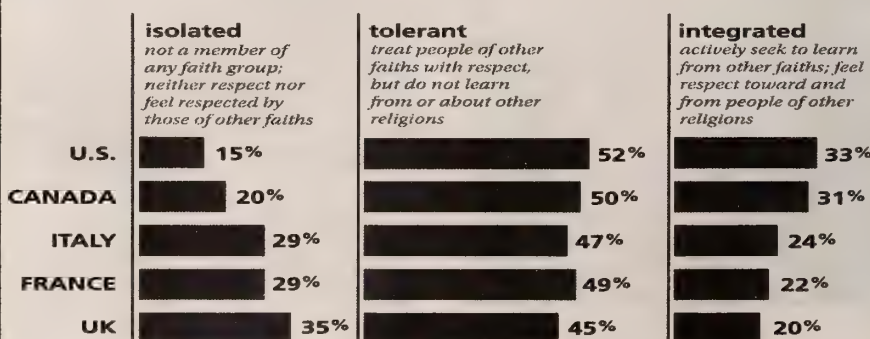
"Do you live outside of this country or perhaps on another planet? Or are you just trying to make yourself believe that people are really becoming nicer and more caring and more giving?"

It has happened before. As the same passage in Acts says: "With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all."

Rather than surrender to pessimism, can we too bear witness so others can find our faith so compelling as to be an example to follow?

Interfaith Openness

People from the U.S. and Canada are more likely to be open to other faiths than those from Europe.



Results from individual countries are based on interviews over various months in 2008. The maximum margin of sampling error for all six populations is plus or minus 5 percentage points. Source: Gallup Poll

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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'Our job is to help them choose life'

Seven secular challenges to the church

Father Val Peter is outspoken, energetic, always thinking and acutely aware of what's going on in the world.

From 1985 to 2005, he was executive director of what used to be known as Father Flanagan's Boys Town in Omaha, Neb. It was later renamed Girls and Boys Town, and then went back to simply Boys Town in 2008.

This safe haven for troubled youngsters — on the Omaha campus as well as at sites in 14 other states and the District of Columbia — provides family-style living, a first-class educational experience through high school and spiritual formation for thousands of boys and girls ages 10 to 17 who are admitted through juvenile courts or social service agencies.

Preference goes to those who have no natural or adoptive parents; many have been physically or sexually abused and most have been involved with the courts.

Father Val Peter now runs a Los Angeles-based national coalition of organizations called Character Counts. An astute observer of life in the church and secular world, Father Peter has just published a book titled "Seven Secular Challenges Facing 21st Century Catholics." It is well worth reading.

He sees "seven critical areas and challenges where our culture is not enriching, but rather diminishing our lives."

These are:

- (1) *Diminished respect for authority*
- (2) *The widespread belief that one is free to experience everything.*
- (3) *Cynicism.*
- (4) *Mistaken ideological beliefs.*
- (5) *Learned helplessness.*
- (6) *Anti-intellectualism.*
- (7) *Political correctness.*

"Learned helplessness" is the label Father Peter puts on the conclusion that "there is nothing I can do to make things better." And the "mistaken ideological beliefs" he identifies include totalitarianism, the MTV culture and terrorism.

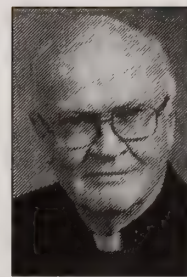
Father Peter suggests that the Catholic Church is in possession of an untried remedy to all these problems, namely, Christian idealism. I'd like to let him speak for himself:

"More than anywhere else I have learned the lessons of the long spiritual journey (of reform and renewal that the church must take) from my years at Boys Town.

"I have seen thousands and thousands of young people come to us, all of them filled with anger, loneliness, frustration and the loss of hope, living in a postmodern culture: antiauthoritarian and cynical.

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



"They feel free to experience everything. They embrace MTV's ideology. In some ways they are hopeless victims.

"These lives are reduced to a single narrow focus: Should I destroy my life (drugs, sex and alcohol) or go on? Is it worth the effort to swim against the tide of pain and despair, alienation and dysfunctionality? Or shall I curse God and die?

"Because of their past, they believe that love (even God's love) has to be merited, and they are convinced they are unworthy.

"This is the lie Adam and Eve believed when they hid themselves from God in the garden.

"Our job is to help them choose life."

Choosing life is not easy for anyone, young or old, who cannot see what the really good life is.

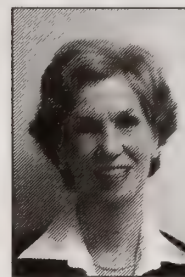
I think of the good life as the life that is lived generously in the service of others. That's a fair description of how Father Peter has chosen to live his very productive life.

That's why his advice to 21st century Catholics on choosing life wisely and well is worth considering.

Celebrate spring with a gift in honor of your loved ones

Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNISTS



Spring is a beautiful and glorious time of the year when our senses delight in the blooming azaleas, dogwoods, jonquils and tulips. It is a time for reflection and spiritual renewal.

It also is a time to celebrate family and friends through the observance of Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and Memorial Day.

As you think about a gift that will express your love, consider a gift that also will benefit the entire Catholic community — celebrate your loved ones with a gift in their honor to your parish, a Catholic school or agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation.

A gift to an endowment also is a special way to honor those you are celebrating. And if you honor your loved ones with a gift to an endowment, you have the added value and comfort of knowing that the endowment will provide for future generations as well.

Gifts made in honor of others are most often made in the form of a check. This is a convenient method for the giver, provides a tax deduction within allowable limits for those who itemize their deductions and can readily be put to good use by the church.

But cash is only one of the many funding sources for honor gifts. Assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds can also be used to make gifts in honor of others. In addition, if you use appreciated assets to create your gift, you can receive extra tax savings.

When you fund a gift with an appreciated stock you have owned for more than one year, you can deduct the entire market value from your taxable income. Plus you avoid any capital gains tax on the stock because you donated it for charitable use.

These additional tax savings are why many people prefer to make honor gifts using assets rather than cash.

You can also establish these gifts through your will or long-range estate plan. Some families in the diocese have made provisions through their wills or estate plans to create endowments to honor their loved ones.

These endowments leave a legacy serving future generations of Catholics in the diocese and are a perpetual tribute in honor of those for whom they are named.

As you honor your loved ones this spring, consider a gift that will benefit them and the entire Catholic community. Celebrate your family and friends with a gift in their honor.

Smith is planned giving director for the diocese. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Obama's abortion agenda

Catholics need to stand up and protect the unborn

President Barack Obama is on the fast track to undo every single policy and law protecting unborn human life.

First, he cancelled the Mexico City policy, clearing the way for taxpayer dollars to go to organizations that provide and promote abortions overseas.

Next, the president authorized the State Department to release \$50 million this fiscal year to the U.N. Population Fund which supports China's population control program, including coerced abortions.

Then, Obama declared his intention to repeal Health and Human Services' regulations that help protect health care workers from increasing pressure to perform abortions against their conscience.

Next, he issued an executive order nullifying earlier rules under the Bush administration that had largely prevented the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research — which requires the killing of human embryos.

This was followed by the National Institutes of Health drafting guidelines for stem cell research using embryos that were originally created for reproductive purposes.

The next step may soon be the federal government's support for human embryo farms. Some members of Congress are determined to push through legislation

that will fund the creation of human embryos — through cloning or in vitro fertilization — for the sole purpose of storing and killing these tiny human beings to obtain their stem cells for research purposes.

And there is every reason to believe that Obama would sign such a bill.

Now, if all this isn't bad enough, there are well-founded fears that the president's health care agenda will include insurance coverage for abortion.

While the Catholic Church fully supports universal health care as a basic human right, and thus welcomes President Obama's desire to see it provided, the church cannot accept abortion coverage as part of the package.

Just when pro-life forces thought it couldn't get much worse, it has! And it will continue to worsen, unless followers of the God of life awaken and untiringly work for the full protection of the unborn!

It is extremely important that every Catholic contact his or her two U.S. senators and representative urging them to:

— Work for passage of a universal health care bill that explicitly excludes abortion.

— Vote against all forms of embryonic stem cell research.

— Vote for morally acceptable

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



and successfully proven adult stem cell research.

— Support the Weldon amendment to the Labor/Health and Human Services appropriations bill.

This amendment forbids all federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against the consciences of individuals and organizations who oppose abortion.

It is also important to contact President Obama (White House comment desk: 202-456-1111/e-mail: www.whitehouse.gov and click "contact us") asking him to please back off this agenda and begin using the power of his presidency to protect vulnerable unborn human beings.

During his 1979 visit to Washington, Pope John Paul II, standing within sight of the U.S. Capitol, boldly proclaimed to 175,000 of us: "We will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life!"

It's time to stand up!

In the 'fight for the last frontier'



CNS PHOTO BARBARA J. FRASER

Travelers board a boat to return home from Barranquita, Peru, April 9. Small farmers in the area, who often lack official land titles, are fighting to prevent a large agriculture company from taking over land they farm. Nine Peruvian bishops from the Amazon region are urging the government to overturn a series of presidential decrees that they say threaten the Amazonian communities and the environment.

Bishops urge Peru to protect the indigenous, environment in Amazonia

BY BARBARA J. FRASER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LIMA, Peru — In a statement criticizing development policies that they say threaten Amazonian communities and the environment, nine Peruvian bishops from the Amazon region urged the government to overturn a series of presidential decrees issued in 2008.

The bishops echoed the grievances of indigenous communities in the northern Peruvian Amazon. The communities have been protesting since April 9, blocking roads and rivers to pressure the government to overturn the laws and set up a task force to address their grievances.

In mid-May, police broke up a roadblock on a key bridge, sent naval vessels to unblock rivers and declared a state of emergency in several Amazonian districts.

The regional president of Loreto, the largest Amazonian region in Peru, refused to enforce the state of emergency, saying it violated the indigenous communities' right to protest.

In their statement, the bishops said Peru's Amazon region is "rich in ancestral cultures and biodiversity" and called it "the source of life and hope for humanity."

They criticized the government, which "in the name of a biased concept of development ... allows the deforestation of great expanses of primary forest" for palm-oil and sugar-cane plantations.

They also criticized pollution from mining and oil drilling, as well as "indiscriminate logging with no control."

Under Peruvian law, most forests and all underground resources, such as minerals, oil and gas, are state-owned, but the government can grant private logging, mining, oil and gas concessions.

Fifteen percent of Peru's tropical lowlands were under concession for oil exploration in 2004, a figure that had jumped to more than 75 percent by last year, according to Carlos Monge, a researcher at the Lima-based think tank Desco.

Many concessions overlap indigenous communities, and several include areas that the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon has asked the government to set aside to protect nomadic indigenous groups that still shun contact with the outside world.

Some of the laws the bishops are asking the government to overturn would make it easier for companies to operate on indigenous peoples' lands.

The government's attitude is "there are resources there, and these communities are an obstacle," Monge told a press conference of foreign journalists. "It is the fight for the last frontier."

Most of the controversial laws were

issued in 2008 by presidential decree, instead of being debated and approved by Congress.

A congressional commission recommended that they be repealed because they were unconstitutional, but Congress has not discussed the recommendation.

The interethnic association said some 10,000 indigenous people in the tropical lowlands are involved in the demonstrations.

The government moved to break up the protest after demonstrators shut down pumping stations on a pipeline that carries oil from northern wells to the Pacific coast and blocked rivers leading to other oil fields.

"We cannot compromise the country's energy security," Environment Minister Antonio Brack told foreign journalists.

Alberto Pizango Chota, president of the interethnic association, said the indigenous people were taking "more radical measures" because "it is the only way to make the government understand" the seriousness of their demands.

Pizango said the indigenous people are fighting for civil rights that have been denied since the Spanish conquest.

Rubber tappers and loggers enslaved Amazonian indigenous people in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the region's communities are now threatened by deforestation, logging and pollution, he said.

"The government has always seen us as third-class citizens," he said. "This is a subtle second colonization, a subtle genocide. It means death for our people."

Peru's Health Ministry has found high levels of several heavy metals in the blood of the Achuar people living along the Corrientes River in northern Peru.

Experts say the metals, which can cause neurological problems, probably came from water pumped into streams and the river over decades as a byproduct of oil drilling.

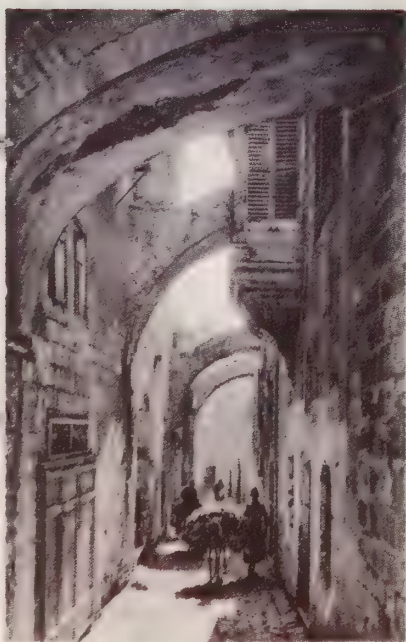
While the government promotes oil concessions for the country's development, Pizango said: "In 38 years, the only development in that area is that the people are condemned to die with lead and cadmium in their blood. Their rivers and lands are polluted. We don't want that kind of development."

In their statement, the bishops cited the conclusions of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean in Aparecida, Brazil, in 2007, which called for "alternative, integral development based on solidarity and an ethic that includes responsibility for human and natural ecology, rooted in the Gospel of justice."

They echoed the indigenous protesters' demand for the laws to be nullified and new laws to be drafted "with the participation of the indigenous population" and called for dialogue between the government and protesters.

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kiss?; making summer a
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| PAGES 14-15

VOLUME 18 No 28

'As one human family'

Obama calls for mutual respect, dialogue on abortion, other issues at Notre Dame

BY GENE STOWE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — President Barack Obama took on the controversy swirling around his commencement address May 17 at the University of Notre Dame, urging those bitterly divided over abortion and other issues to adopt an approach of mutual respect and dialogue.

Welcomed to the ceremony and frequently interrupted with

See OBAMA, page 6

'Understanding Islam'

Conference aims to erase misconceptions

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HICKORY — Clergy and laity representing four Christian denominations from across North Carolina gathered for an ecumenical meeting at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory May 18-19.

The Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue or LARCUM

See ISLAM, page 8

For football player, faith is relevant



COURTESY PHOTO FROM GAMECOCKCENTRAL.COM

Ryan Succop kicks a field goal for the University of South Carolina during a home game against Wofford College at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C. Sept. 20, 2008. Succop, a Catholic from Hickory, was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs as the last pick in the 2009 NFL draft.

Succop feels 'incredibly blessed'

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HICKORY — Ryan Succop, doesn't mind being the last pick in the 2009 NFL draft. In fact, he considers it a blessing.

"I took it differently than most people would," said Succop, who was acquired by the Kansas City Chiefs as the 256th overall draft pick.

"As a kicker it's hard to get drafted," Succop said, "I looked at it as a blessing."

Along with a chance to try out for the team, being the last pick in the draft earned Succop the title of "Mr. Irrelevant," which for better or worse carries with it a good bit of publicity.

The title, "Mr. Irrelevant," has been around since 1976 when former NFL receiver Paul Salata wanted to honor

See NFL, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI holds hands with religious leaders, including Rabbi David Rosen (left of the pope) and Sheik Muafek Tarif (right of the pope), the Druze spiritual leader in Israel, during an interfaith meeting at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Israel, May 14. A song of peace was sung as the leaders held hands.

On a pilgrim's path to peace

In Holy Land, pope delivers religious, political challenges

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Pope Benedict XVI's eight-day visit to the Holy Land was a biblical pilgrimage, an interfaith mission and a political balancing act all rolled into one.

It also was a gamble. In a region hardened by decades of

conflict and simmering social and religious tensions, there was no guarantee of success.

The long-range verdict is yet to come on this "pilgrimage of peace," but the pope certainly delivered a clear and challenging message to his

See PILGRIM, page 9

Vocations

Seminarians visit school; grad ordained a deacon

| PAGE 7

Culture Watch

Book on late pope; celebrities continue 'rosary priest' mission

| PAGES 10-11

Hazards on the sea

Priest discusses reasons for rise in piracy

| PAGE 16

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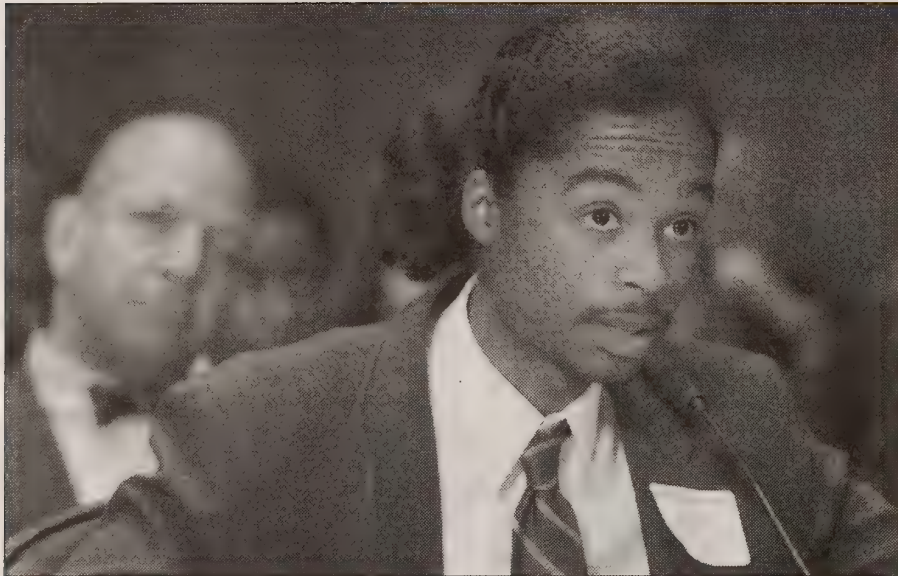
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

VOUCHING FOR SUCCESS



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Ronald Holassie, a sophomore at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, testifies at a hearing on the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program on Capitol Hill in Washington May 13. Former D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams is in the background at left. Language that congressional Democrats included in the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill would end the scholarship program, although President Barack Obama recently proposed allowing students currently enrolled in it to finish their education. The program gives low-income families up to \$7,500 per year for private school education.

Senators urged to keep voucher program that helps low-income families

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The District of Columbia's public schools "didn't get bad overnight, and they are not going to get better overnight," a student from a Washington Catholic high school said May 13, urging Congress to continue funding a program that helps low-income families send their children to local private schools.

Ronald Holassie, a sophomore at Archbishop Carroll High School, was one of two students who testified at a Senate hearing about the importance of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, now in jeopardy since Congress voted to cut funding in March.

On May 6, President Barack Obama proposed more funding for students who are already in the scholarship program, but not for new students. The program gives annual scholarships of up to \$7,500 to low-income families that allows them to choose a private school for their children.

Until the district's public schools improve, students need Opportunity Scholarships, said Holassie, himself a scholarship recipient and the district's deputy youth mayor for legislative affairs. He told the senators that at Archbishop Carroll he finds "more expectations, higher academic expectations."

"Teachers really want me to succeed. I didn't get that motivation in public schools," he said. "I feel that having Opportunity Scholarships absolutely changed me as a person. We need Opportunity Scholarships for children in D.C."

Tiffany Dunston, valedictorian of Archbishop Carroll's class of 2008 who just completed her first year at Syracuse University in New York, testified she was the first member of her

family to attend college. She attended Archbishop Carroll with the help of an Opportunity Scholarship.

"You have the ability to give other D.C. children the opportunity I had. My education gave me the chance at a successful future. Please don't end a program that worked for me and is benefiting tons of other children," she said.

"Three years from now, I'll be walking across a stage receiving my college diploma. Without the Opportunity Scholarship Program, none of this would have been possible," she said.

The Opportunity Scholarships were approved as a pilot federal program five years ago as part of a bipartisan effort to expand educational opportunities in the city for children attending public, charter and private schools. The program includes \$14 million for annual scholarships so low-income children can attend the schools of their choice.

Currently, 1,700 children in the city's poorest neighborhoods receive the scholarships, with about one-half of them attending Catholic schools in the city. The Archdiocese of Washington and participating Catholic schools subsidize the remaining tuition costs for those students.

Congress voted to authorize funding for the 2009-10 school year, with the stipulation that for the program to be continued after that it would have to be reauthorized by both Congress and the District of Columbia Council.

A statement from the Archdiocese of Washington noted that Obama's plan to continue funding only for students currently in the program "would mean the slow death of a successful program that is helping move children in our nation's capital out of poverty."

Help given to immigrants affected by Iowa raid called faith in action

POSTVILLE, Iowa (CNS) — After the first anniversary observance of the immigration raid in Postville May 12, Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque said he hoped the event would show the world that faith in Christ ended in action.

"We're hoping to show that we take the words of our Scriptures very seriously," he said, "to treat the alien in your midst like your brother or sister, and that when you receive the alien, the foreigner, you are welcoming Christ."

A year to the day federal agents descended on Agriprocessors, the town's largest employer and biggest industry, and arrested 389 undocumented immigrant workers, people of all faiths and walks of life gathered in solidarity to show support for those most affected by the raid.

Many of those arrested already have been deported. Others remain

lost in the court systems.

More than 650 people attended a day of remembrance at St. Bridget Church. The day's observance began at 10 a.m., the time the raid began. Bells around the town tolled once for each arrested worker.

Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious leaders joined Archbishop Hanus at St. Bridget for a 4 p.m. interfaith prayer vigil and solidarity walk to the Agriprocessors meat packing plant.

It was important, the archbishop said, for the event marking the raid to be both local to Postville and universal in participation.

"We decided the event had to take place here because this is where the event took place and this is where so much of the suffering has happened," he said in an interview with *The Witness*, the archdiocesan newspaper.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *parish retreat* featuring guest speaker Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., May 24-27, each evening at 7 p.m. Topics covered will include "To be born again," "The healing love of Jesus," "The call to be church" and "Our response to the call." The retreat is free and open to the public. For more information, call Deacon Roland Geoffroy at (704) 289-2773, ext. 240.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *St. Gabriel in Transition* (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be May 26 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 7-9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Tom Lane, one of Charlotte's leaders in career development. Networking and one-on-one coaching sessions will follow the speaker. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — A *solemn prayer service*

including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., May 28 at 7:30 p.m.. St. Peregrine is the patron saint of cancer and incurable diseases. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *Chamber Choir from Northwest School of the Arts* will perform in concert at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., May 30 at 7 p.m. The choir's performance is co-sponsored by the music ministry at St. John Neumann Church and by Dragon's Breath, the high school choral booster club at Northwest School of the Arts. The choir will sing at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, prior to the concert. Admission is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken, with proceeds to be equally split to support the diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund and Dragon's Breath.

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. (no study July 15). The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held June 14 in the St. Matthew Parish Center Family Room, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up in the narthex of church following weekend Masses, May 30-31 and June 6-7. Participants will need to bring a picture ID. Appointments will be honored. Walk-ins accepted as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — An *Evening of Recollection for Men*, conducted by a priest of Opus Dei, will be held in the daily Mass chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., June 5 from 7 to

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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MAY 22, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 28

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican launches iPhone, Facebook applications for communications day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is launching iPhone and Facebook applications in an effort to help Catholics, especially younger generations, use new technologies to create a culture of dialogue, respect and friendship.

The new applications are part of a brand new Vatican Web site — www.pope2you.net — that was to go live on World Communications Day, which will be celebrated May 24 in most dioceses.

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the new site was created to help attract young people to and spread Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Communications Day, the head of the council, Archbishop Claudio Celli, told reporters May 18.

This year's communications day message is dedicated to "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

"We thought that it was good

to present the message to the young generation through technologies that they know how to use," the archbishop said during a press conference unveiling the new site.

"We think this pontifical council itself has to use new technologies to promote new relationships around the world," he said, adding that "we must take advantage of what the new technologies are offering us at this very moment."

He said the pope's message inspired the council to create a simple, fresh site to work as a hub from which users can find some new ways the universal church is present in the digital world.

The site offers viewers a link to a new application on the social networking site Facebook.

In conjunction with the Vatican Television Center and Vatican Radio, H2Onews will distribute audio and video reports exclusively through the iPhone in eight different languages, including Chinese.

9 p.m. A priest will be available to hear confessions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church, which aims to help people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155, or e-mail joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Morning of Recollection for Women*, conducted by a priest of Opus Dei, will be held in the daily Mass chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., June 6, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m. The priest is available for confessions starting at 9:30 a.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church, which aims to help people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155, or e-mail remy_ignacio@hotmail.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and discussion in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will study the Book of Joshua during the month of May. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

HIGH POINT — An *International Festival* will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., May 31 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share; beverages are provided. There will be entertainment and exhibits from exotic places around the world, as well as special entertainment for children. It's all free. For more information, call (336) 869-7739.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — *Contemplative living and nonviolence, a one-day workshop based on the life of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton*, will be held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, May 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program will be led by J. Patrick Mahon, who studies and teaches extensively on peacemaking and justice seeking. There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is encouraged.

To register, call (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwrcr@bellsouth.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — *Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad* gather on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open for fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or katie.knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — *Theological Tuesday, an evening with Father Herbert Burke*, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, will take place May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Father Burke is the author of "A Scriptural Catechism" and "The Rosary is the Answer." His unique style and humor will inform and challenge you to better know Christ, through Mary, and to live your friendship with him. For more information, contact Mary Beth Young at ymarybeth@aol.com.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 27 (5 p.m.)
Charlotte Catholic High School
Baccalaureate Mass
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

May 28 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Foundation Board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

May 28 (7:30 p.m.)
Bishop McGuinness High School
Baccalaureate Mass
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

May 30 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville

Pope's pediatric hospital: Making a big impact helping tiny patients

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Of the thousands of hospitals the Catholic Church owns or operates, one has a very special patron. Known as "the pope's hospital," the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital belongs to the Vatican.

Under the aegis of the Vatican's Secretariat of State, it's the only children's hospital in Rome. And the hospital has gained worldwide recognition for its quality care, cutting-edge research, Christian ethics and charitable outreach to five continents.

This year Bambino Gesù, Italian for "baby Jesus," is celebrating the 140th anniversary of its birth. From its humble beginnings as a 12-bed ward in a family home to 800 beds in a modern hospital complex, the pope's hospital has a lot to celebrate.

Founded in 1869 by Duchess Arabella and Duke Scipione Salviati, it became the first pediatric hospital on the Italian peninsula. At the time, children

needing care were obliged to share hospital wards with adults.

With the help of their own children, who donated the contents of their piggy banks for the cause, the duchess and duke turned one of the family's homes into a small pediatric hospital run by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

In 1887, the facility was transferred to its current location within the 15th-century convent of St. Onuphrius, on the Janiculum Hill behind the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI visited the hospital shortly after his election in 2005.

He said he wanted Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to be the first hospital he visited in his pontificate, not only because it's a Vatican-related institution, but because he wanted to faithfully give witness to Jesus "who loved children tenderly and wanted them to be allowed to go to him."

Harnessing the Spirit



CNS PHOTO BY JORGE DAN LOPEZ, REUTERS

A priest sprinkles holy water on a horse for the feast of St. Isidor the Farmer at a Catholic church in Tixtla village in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero May 15. The saint is patron of farmers and rural communities. Seeds for planting and animals are traditionally blessed on his feast day in Mexico.

Bishop Wang, auxiliary in San Francisco, retires at age 75

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius C. Wang of San Francisco, who turned 75 in February.

The papal decision was announced May 16 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Wang was believed to be the first Chinese-born member of the U.S. hierarchy.

Born Feb. 27, 1934, in Beijing, Bishop Wang (pronounced Wong) was the fifth of eight children in a Catholic Chinese family that was descended from a Manchurian emperor, the rulers of the

last Chinese dynasty.

After studies for the priesthood in Hong Kong, he was ordained for the Prefecture of Kienow, China, July 4, 1959.

In 1974 he began work in several parishes in San Francisco, a city where nearly one-fourth of the residents are of Chinese ancestry.

Before his appointment as a bishop in late 2002, Bishop Wang had been coordinator of the Chinese Apostolate in the San Francisco Archdiocese since 1981, archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith since 1994 and chancellor since 1998. He was ordained a bishop Jan. 30, 2003.

Crowning Our Lady



COURTESY PHOTO BY BARBARA MARKUN

Christina Witte, a second-grader at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, places a crown on a statue of Mary during the weekly school Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church May 13. The month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning of Mary and praying the rosary.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, speaks during a May crowning ceremony outside the church May 10.

Rallying for the rosary



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are some of the participants, including members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, in the 66th semi-annual rosary rally at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 3. Father Brandon Jones, parochial vicar, led the participants in recitation of the rosary, Eucharistic adoration and Benediction. The next rosary rally is scheduled for Oct. 11.

Mother's Day in the mess hall



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 12481 prepare a breakfast for parishioners in honor of Mother's Day at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington May 10. Donations were collected for the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. (Least Among My Brethren), a fundraiser that benefits individuals with mental retardation.

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Succop feels 'incredibly blessed'

NFL, from page 1

the underdog or the final pick of the NFL draft with a week-long celebration of events in Newport Beach, Calif.

This year's celebration is scheduled to take place June 22-26.

But Succop doesn't have time to think about all that.

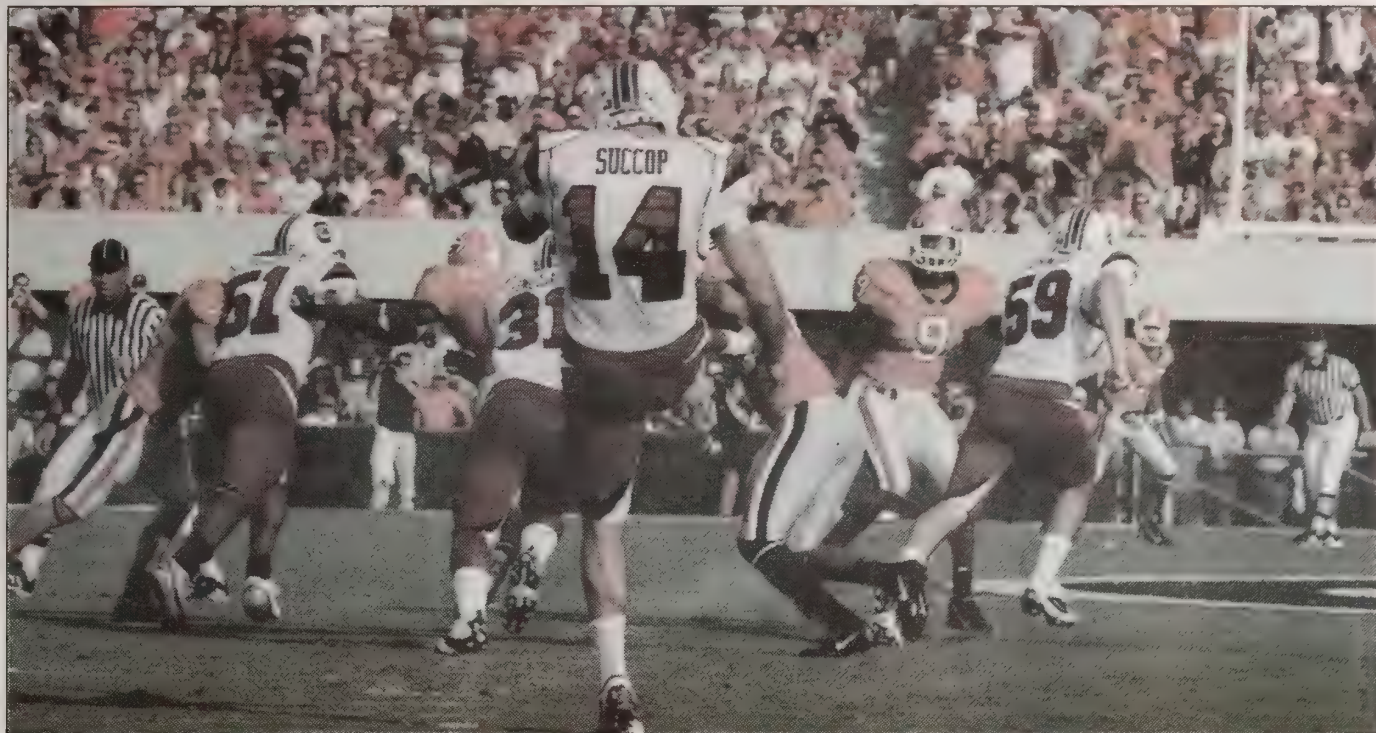
"I really don't worry too much about the attention — simply because I still have to go out and make the team," he said. "Right now I'm just focusing on football."

Succop was born and raised in Hickory, where he and his family attend St. Aloysius Church. His mother, Kathy, is the pastoral coordinator there.

He attended Hickory High School, where he was rated the fourth best kicker in the nation.

Then he accepted a full athletic scholarship to the University of South Carolina, where as a punter and placekicker, he set scoring records and earned numerous awards.

While at USC, Succop excelled academically, often making the dean's



COURTESY PHOTO FROM GAMECOCKCENTRAL.COM

Ryan Succop punts the ball for the University of South Carolina during a game against the University of Georgia at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Ga. Sept. 8, 2007. Succop, a Catholic from Hickory, was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs as the last pick in the 2009 NFL draft.

list while pursuing a double major in finance and management with a minor in psychology.

Throughout his college years, Succop said it was his faith that helped

him meet challenges.

"My faith has helped me a lot," he said. "Knowing I've got that rock to fall back on strengthens me in everything I do."

At USC, Succop and his teammates prayed with the team chaplain.

"The whole team says the Lord's Prayer before every game," he said.

Off the field, Succop has made it a priority to give back to those who are less fortunate.

"I've been so blessed," he said, "I just want to be able to give back and help do God's work."

As a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Succop spent time during college visiting with children at local hospitals and elementary schools.

That desire to help those in need was instilled in him through his faith.

"God has given me a platform to go out and help others," he said. "I want to use that platform."

Succop completed rookie camp with the Kansas City Chiefs the second weekend in May.

He'll spend the rest of the summer,

"I just try to honor the Lord in everything I do."

— Ryan Succop

minus the week of festivities in Newport Beach, completing grueling training camps and workouts in Kansas City, Mo.

Then in September, he'll find out if he has made the team.

While his focus is on football, Succop hasn't lost sight of what's really important.

"I always ask myself, 'Am I honoring God by doing this?'" he said. "I just try to honor the Lord in everything I do."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Obama calls for mutual respect, dialogue on abortion, other issues at Notre Dame

OBAMA, from page 1

boisterous applause, Obama invoked then-Notre Dame president Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh's winning an agreement in the 1960s from deeply divided U.S. Civil Rights Commission members during a fishing trip in Wisconsin as a model of persevering dialogue.

"Open hearts. Open minds. Fair-minded words. It's a way of life that has always been the Notre Dame tradition," Obama said, positioning dialogue as the hope for solutions to enormous modern problems.

"Your class has come of age at a moment of great consequence for our nation and the world — a rare inflection point in history where the size and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to renew its promise; that we align our deepest values and commitments to the demands of a new age," he said.

"We must find a way to live together as one human family. Moreover, no one person, or religion or nation can meet these challenges alone. Our very survival has never required greater cooperation and understanding among all people from all places than at this moment in history," he said.

Obama listed war, gay rights and embryonic stem cell research among difficult issues that demand dialogue, but he spent the bulk of his talk on the abortion issue.

Critics of Notre Dame's decision

to invite Obama, including more than 50 bishops, said the president's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem cell research made him an inappropriate choice to be a commencement speaker at a Catholic university and to receive an honorary degree from Notre Dame.

The local bishop, Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Forth Wayne-South Bend, announced weeks before he would not attend the ceremony, and a student group, Notre Dame Response, and other protesters held daily demonstrations. On commencement day, the student group also received permission to hold a vigil for life at the grotto on campus as an alternative graduation ceremony.

During the main commencement ceremony in the Joyce Center, a handful of hecklers were escorted out during Obama's talk — once with a student-led "We are ND" chant drowning out the protesters' shouts.

Obama said he had learned to choose careful language on the issue during his race for the Senate in Illinois, when a pro-life doctor complained that his Web site referred to abortion opponents as "right-wing ideologues who want to take away a woman's right to choose." Obama had the words removed.

"And I said a prayer that night that I might extend the same presumption of good faith to others that the doctor had extended to me," Obama told the graduates and their families.

"Because when we do that — when we open our hearts and our minds to those who may not think like we do or believe what we do — that's when we discover at least the possibility of common ground," he said.

Polls find more Americans call themselves 'pro-life' than 'pro-choice'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Opinion polls are finding that Americans are taking a dramatic turn toward greater opposition to abortion.

A poll conducted May 7-10 as part of the annual Gallup Values and Beliefs survey found that a majority of Americans (51 percent) described themselves as "pro-life" with respect to the abortion issue, while only 42 percent said they were "pro-choice." The results were made public May 15.

It marked the first time since Gallup began asking the question in 1995 that more respondents said they were pro-life than pro-choice, and was a shift of 7-8 percentage points from a year earlier, when 50 percent said they were pro-choice and 44 percent said they were pro-life.

A separate Gallup Poll Daily survey conducted May 12-13 found that 50 percent of Americans described themselves as pro-life and 43 percent as pro-choice.

The results were similar to another national survey made public April 30 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, which found that the number of Americans who said abortion should be legal in all or most cases had declined to 46 percent in April 2009 from 54

percent in August 2008.

Forty-four percent of respondents in the Pew poll said abortion should be illegal in most (28 percent) or all cases (16 percent), up from 41 percent in August 2008.

The margin of error for each of the three polls was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In the 2009 Gallup Values and Beliefs survey, 52 percent of the Catholic respondents and 59 percent of Protestants or members of other Christian religions described themselves as pro-life, compared to 45 percent of Catholics and 51 percent of Protestants in May 2008.

When Gallup first began conducting the Values and Beliefs survey in 1995, 56 percent of Americans described themselves as pro-choice and only 33 percent said they were pro-life.

Since then, the highest percentage to identify themselves as pro-life was 46 percent, in both August 2001 and May 2002.

In surveys conducted by Pew Research, support for keeping abortion legal in all or most cases ranged in 2008 from 57 percent in mid-October to 53 percent in late October but dropped to 46 percent in April 2009.



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN GRESS, REUTERS

A Notre Dame student displays her mortarboard with a pro-life symbol next to a student displaying one with a symbol from the "Obama for President" campaign. The students are pictured prior to the commencement address by U.S. President Barack Obama at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind., May 17.

Acknowledging that positions on abortion are in some ways irreconcilable, he urged respect for conscience and recognition of the "heart-wrenching decision for any woman to make, with both spiritual and moral dimensions."

"So let's work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions by reducing unintended pregnancies, and making adoption more available, and providing care and support for women who do carry their children to term," he said.

"Let's honor the conscience of those who disagree with abortion, and draft a sensible conscience clause, and make sure that all of our health care policies are grounded in clear ethics and sound science, as well as respect for the equality of women," he said.

"Each side will continue to make its case to the public with passion and conviction. But surely we can do so without reducing those with differing views to caricature," he said.

Noting he was not raised in a particularly religious household, he said he was "brought to Christ" by the witness of co-workers in service on the south side of Chicago and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. Obama acknowledged Catholic parishes helping fund an organization called the Developing Communities Project.

He contrasted faith and certainty, describing a doubt that fosters humility.

"It should compel us to remain open and curious and eager to continue the moral and spiritual debate that began for so many of you within the walls of Notre Dame," he said.

"And within our vast democracy, this doubt should remind us to persuade through reason, through an appeal whenever we can to universal rather than parochial principles, and most of all through an abiding example of good works, charity, kindness, and service that moves hearts and minds," fulfilling the golden rule shared by religious and nonreligious people.

Obama invoked Father Hesburgh's twin images of Notre Dame as a lighthouse of Catholic wisdom and a crossroads where different cultures can converge. The priest, now 91, attended the commencement.

Obama also recounted how Father Hesburgh, the sole surviving member of the first U.S. Civil Rights Commission, brokered the deal that became the basis of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by flying

the members to Notre Dame's Land O' Lakes property: "They fished, and they talked, and they changed the course of history."

"I will not pretend that the challenges we face will be easy, or that the answers will come quickly, or that all our differences and divisions will fade happily away," he said. "Life is not that simple. It never has been."

"But as you leave here today, remember the lessons of Cardinal Bernardin, of Father Hesburgh, of movements for change both large and small," he continued. "Remember that each of us, endowed with the dignity possessed by all children of God, has the grace to recognize ourselves in one another; to understand that we all seek the same love of family and the same fulfillment of a life well-lived. Remember that in the end, we are all fishermen."

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, and Judge John Noonan, who won the university's prestigious Laetare Medal in 1984 and delivered a brief speech "in the spirit of the Laetare Medal," also addressed the protests that erupted after Obama accepted Father Jenkins' invitation to speak.

On May 16 a group of leading Catholic theologians and other leaders published a full-page advertisement in the South Bend Tribune daily newspaper in support of Father Jenkins' invitation to Obama, and the graduating class selected the priest as their senior fellow. The crowd gave him two standing ovations at the close of the ceremonies.

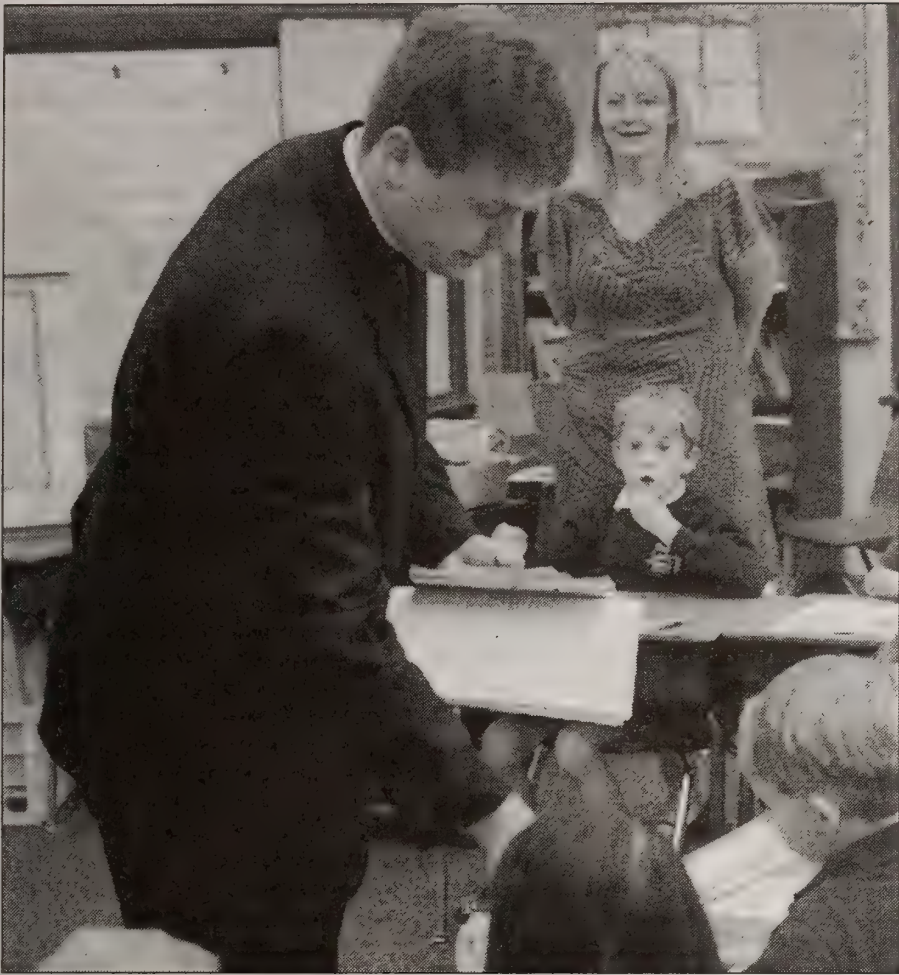
"More than any problem in the arts or sciences, engineering or medicine, easing the hateful divisions between human beings is the supreme challenge to this age," Father Jenkins said in his introduction of Obama. "If we can solve this problem, we have a chance to come together and solve all the others."

Noonan referred to Harvard professor and former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Mary Ann Glendon, who declined the medal in late April, as making a "lonely, courageous and conscientious choice."

"I respect her decision," he said to applause. "At the same time, I am here to confirm that all consciences are not the same; that we can recognize great goodness in our nation's president without defending all of his multitudinous decisions; and that we can rejoice on this wholly happy occasion."

VOCATIONS

Vocational visitors



COURTESY PHOTO BY BARBARA MARKUN

Paul Buchanan, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, hands out holy cards to first-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro May 13. Buchanan and seminarian Paul McNulty toured the school and visited classrooms with Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace Church.



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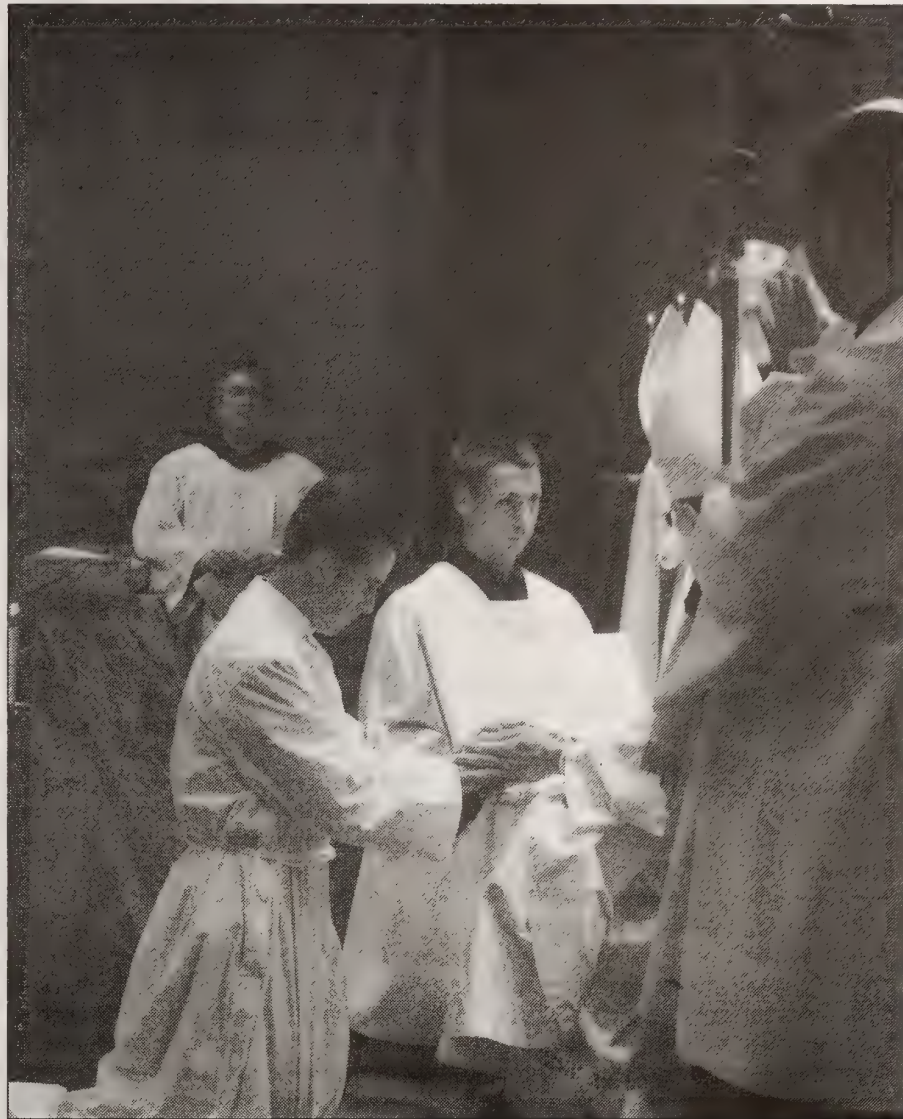
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ANSWERING THE CALL



COURTESY PHOTO

Brother Richard Sutter is pictured holding the hands of Bishop Peter J. Jugis as he promises obedience during his diaconate ordination at Belmont Abbey May 11.

Belmont Abbey grad ordained as transitional deacon

BELMONT — Brother Richard Sutter was ordained a transitional deacon for the Legionaries of Christ by Bishop of Charlotte Peter J. Jugis in a ceremony at the Minor Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey May 11.

After 10 years of discernment in both the military and civilian life, Deacon Sutter has chosen to follow God's call to a priestly vocation. He will be ordained as a Legionaries priest in Rome in December.

Deacon Sutter first considered the priesthood in 1986 when he was 17 years old. But after interviewing with his diocese's vocations director, he decided to go to college first.

He graduated magna cum laude from Belmont Abbey College in May 1991 with a degree in business administration. He was in Army ROTC and the North Carolina Army National Guard, which led to his commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant upon graduation.

He then spent time at several U.S. bases and in Germany. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal as a captain while serving a one-star general in Europe.

In 1997, Deacon Sutter left the Army to pursue a business career. In 1999, after attending a Legionaries of Christ summer candidacy program, he decided

to follow his call to the priesthood.

For the past three years he has been completing his theological studies at the Legionaries' Pontifical Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum in Rome. He credits Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey with guiding him throughout college and the years that followed, prior to his entering the Legionaries.

"Richard's years at Belmont Abbey College were important for his formation in the faith," said Abbot Solari. "Although he felt that his own personal character and gifts suited him better for apostolic religious life than monastic life, he gives the college community and the monks much credit for his own vocation to religious life and the priesthood."

"It is precisely because of the deep attachment he has maintained to the college and monastery that he requested that his diaconate ordination be celebrated at the Abbey," Abbot Solari said.

The Legionaries of Christ is a religious congregation founded in 1941. Its mission is to extend the kingdom of Christ in society according to the requirements of Christian justice and charity, and in close collaboration with the bishops and the pastoral plans of each diocese.

Today the Legionaries number more than 800 priests and 2,500 major and minor seminarians serving in 22 countries.

Conference aims to erase misconceptions about Islam

Seeks to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding

ISLAM, from page 1

Conference is an annual event to promote interfaith dialogue among Lutherans, Anglicans or Episcopalians, Roman Catholics and United Methodists.

The goal of this year's theme, "Understanding Islam," was to dispel misconceptions regarding the Islamic faith.

"In our society today there is a great deal of talk, discussion and criticism of Islam," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy.

"A lot of the information is not accurate in terms of the true teachings of Islam," he said.

Father Kloster was the Catholic representative in the planning group for this year's conference, which was attended by approximately 40 people, ordained and lay, from the four Christian denominations.

Dr. Mohammed Lodhi, associate professor of biotechnology at Fayetteville State University, was the featured speaker. Dr. Lodhi is a participant in the Islamic Speakers Bureau.

"Media, the Internet, books and television portray incomplete, and in many cases, misleading representations of Islam," said Dr. Lodhi.

One of the positive aspects of the conference is that "people from different denominations are able to sit down face to face," and discuss differences and similarities in their belief systems, he said.

Topics of program sessions included an introduction to Islam and its history, an explanation of current events in the Middle East and a discussion of the barriers to peace and conversation among Muslims, Christians and Jews.

"Each of the four denominations (Lutheran, Episcopalian, Catholic and United Methodist) has a bishop in its organizational structure," said Father Kloster, who explained the premise behind the name and makeup of the event.

Every year, one of the highlights of the conference is the bishop's panel. This year the four bishops discussed their experiences with interfaith ministry, Middle East issues and peace issues.

"I look forward to the LARCUM Conference each year," said Charlotte Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "It is a great opportunity to meet personally with (Lutheran) Bishop Bolick, (Episcopal) Bishop Taylor and (United Methodist) Bishop Goodpaster to discuss matters of common interest as we serve the Lord in North Carolina."

According to Father Kloster, there are two beneficial values of the conference.

The first is education on the topic, in this case, Islam and understanding its myths.

The second is that the conference provides an opportunity for members of the four represented denominations to discuss misconceptions that they may have of each other.

"We have things in common and we have our differences," said Dr. Lodhi.

At this time in history the focus tends to be on talking about the differences, but "we should be talking about our common goals," he said.

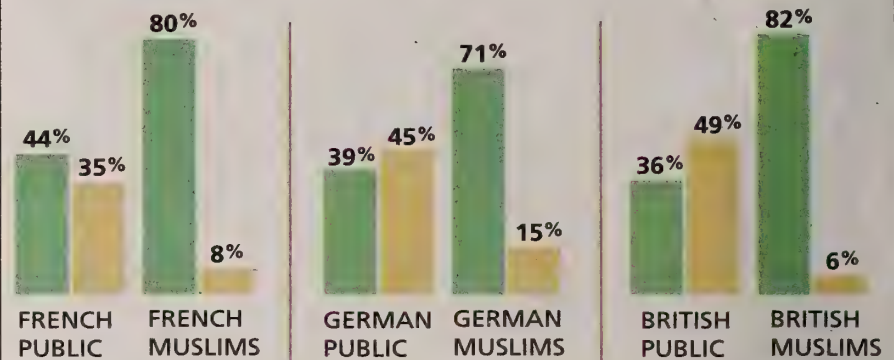
Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Muslim National Loyalty

The general public in these European nations does not think Muslims are loyal to their countries. Muslims differ.

Are Muslims in this country loyal to this country?

YES NO



Results from individual countries are based on interviews over various months in 2008. The maximum margin of sampling error for all six populations is plus or minus 5 percentage points. Source: Gallup Poll

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FROM THE HOLY LAND

In Holy Land, pope delivers challenges

PILGRIM, from page 1

diverse audiences in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories May 8-15. That alone was an achievement.

The common theme that tied his events together was that God acts in human events, and that believers have a duty to make religion an effective force for good in a region suffering from war, mistrust and misunderstanding.

To Christians, the pope focused on the hope brought by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On his final day in Jerusalem, he summed up his message, saying that the empty tomb "assures us that God can make all things new," that peace is really possible and that long-standing hostilities can be overcome.

That was the point of the pope's pilgrimage to places like the Jordan River, the Grotto of the Annunciation and Golgotha. He was not just engaging in religious tourism, but trying to strengthen the confidence of the struggling Christian community in the Holy Land and the faith of other Christians who watched and listened from afar.

His blessing of new construction sites for churches and a Catholic university in Jordan underscored his point that even as a tiny minority the church can have a significant and positive impact on society.

Interreligious reasons

On an interreligious level, the pope's pilgrimage seemed to have two distinct phases.

In Jordan, a predominantly Muslim country that has protected the rights of Christians, the pope lauded efforts to build an "alliance of civilizations" and curb extremism.

His stop at a mosque in Amman was

historic — he's now the first pope to have visited two Muslim places of worship.

At the same time, the pope was not in Jordan simply to bless official efforts at dialogue. His aim was to reach a wider audience and provoke some thinking.

His speech to Muslim leaders in Amman thus returned to the theme of faith and reason, which caused such controversy at Regensburg, Germany, in 2006; this time, he chose his words carefully, but continued to insist that religion detached from reason is susceptible to "ideological manipulation" that can provoke tensions and violence in society.

His approach was to build bridges by affirming the moderate voices in Islam. When he spoke, for example, of the "fundamental contradiction of resorting to violence or exclusion in the name of God," he cited Muslim messages from recent years.

For most people, of course, papal visits work on a less intellectual level.

The pope may have won the most friends in Jordan simply by wearing on his shoulders a Jordanian kaffiyeh or "shmagh," a red-and-white-checked head scarf that for many people has political overtones.

Complex complications

When the pope landed in Israel May 11, the interreligious dimension of his trip suddenly got complicated.

He began by honoring the memory of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust and denouncing anti-Semitism. The same day he paid a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, where he met with six Holocaust survivors and spoke movingly of the tragedy of the victims.

All this was designed to re-establish Pope Benedict as a friend of Judaism and the Jews. But the reviews were mixed, mainly because the pope, a native of Germany who lived under the Nazi regime, did not speak at the memorial about the perpetrators of the Holocaust.

Vatican officials pointed out that



CNS PHOTO BY HEIDI LEVINE, POOL VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI listens to Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem during the pope's visit in Jerusalem's Old City May 15.

the pope has spoken on several previous occasions about the Nazi crimes against humanity.

The pope's interreligious dialogue encounter the same evening was unfortunately derailed by a Muslim sheik's denunciation of Israeli policies, which prompted Jewish representatives to walk out. And with that, the pope was knee-deep in the politics of the region.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict touches every aspect of life in the Holy Land, so it should have been no surprise that the pope got an earful wherever he went.

Especially in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, on his one full day in Palestinian territory, speaker after speaker — including church leaders — denounced the Israeli occupation, the travel and economic restrictions, the destruction of homes and the

political detainees.

The pope walked a finer line. On one hand he sympathized with Palestinians and strongly defended their right to an independent state; on the other hand, he spoke of "turmoil" rather than "occupation" and appealed to Palestinian youths to overcome bitterness and reject terrorism — words that Israeli officials were no doubt happy to hear.

He denounced the 26-foot-high Israeli security wall that cuts through the West Bank like a concrete scar, calling it one of the "saddest sights" of his visit and a tragic symbol of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

But even here, he was careful to avoid blame, referring to "the hostilities that have caused this wall to be built" rather than the "oppression" that his Palestinian hosts loudly condemned.

Making progress

The pope's method was the moral prodding of a pilgrim. When he met with Israeli President Shimon Peres, for example, he explored the Hebrew scriptural meaning of "security" as not just the lack of threat but the building of trust.

The pope did more than preach in the Holy Land. He also did a lot of listening, his aides said. For every papal speech, there were three or four speeches from his hosts.

"I think that gave him a much deeper knowledge of the situation and problems of the Holy Land and the Middle East," said the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi.

Of the visit's many remarkable moments, one stood out: At an interfaith encounter in Nazareth, the pope and other Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Druze leaders held hands in prayer as a psalm of peace was sung — a small but significant achievement on his pilgrim's path.



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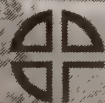
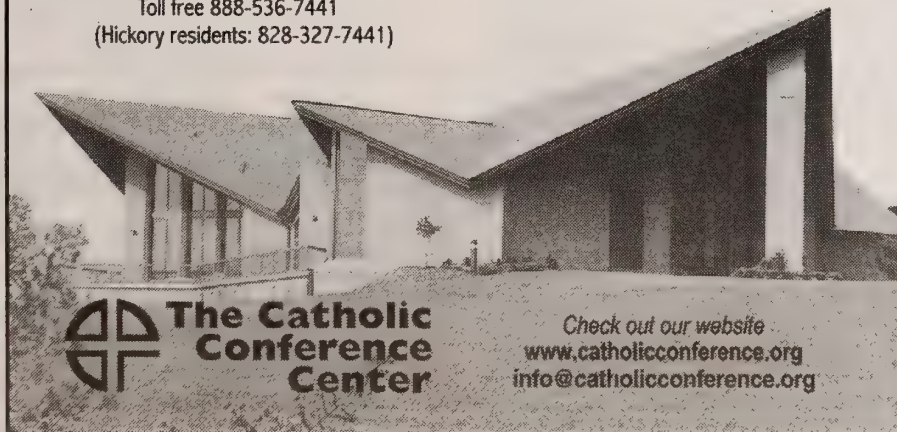
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Book says late pope kept sense of fun in his final years

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — Pope John Paul II sang and made jokes even at the end of his life, said a Polish archbishop who was one of the pope's personal secretaries.

"The pope loved to laugh and could play innocent pranks," said Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Lviv, Ukraine.

"He wasn't exuberant and didn't collect information, and he preferred to listen rather than talk. But he also noticed it when you'd had a hard day or were in bad mood. He would wink at you and smile," he said.

The archbishop spoke to Poland's TVN 24 about his book, "He Liked Tuesdays Best," about life with Pope John Paul. He said that on Tuesdays during the papacy, Pope John Paul often would make discreet, unreported excursions outside Rome.

Archbishop Mokrzycki said the pontiff was addicted to fresh air and insisted on keeping his Vatican apartment windows open, even in cold weather.

The late pope rose regularly at 5 a.m. to watch the sunrise and "also liked sunset, during which he often cut himself off and became immersed in prayer," Archbishop Mokrzycki said.

"When he had a worry, he'd ... sit on the terrace to pray in solitude. You could always count on him to remember you in his prayers. His secretaries placed the cards left in the Vatican with prayer requests on his chapel kneeler, and he read them all," said the archbishop, who was ordained a priest in 1987 and named to his Vatican position in 1996.

In the Polish-language book published by Krakow's Wydawnictwo M publishers, Archbishop Mokrzycki said he was often asked to sing Polish folk songs by the pope, who "very much missed" his homeland, watched Polish TV news daily and supported Krakow's local soccer team.

Pope John Paul also loved cakes, although nuns in the papal household tried to control his weight.

"The sisters didn't usually serve dessert since the Holy Father was fighting (becoming) overweight, but he had such a sweet tooth he often signaled a request to them," said Archbishop Mokrzycki.

"We all knew the sign — he didn't have to say anything. Without even looking at the nuns, he'd draw a circle with his finger on the tablecloth and keep on drawing it," he said.

Archbishop Mokrzycki said the pontiff found it "very hard" to accept his growing incapacity with Parkinson's disease, during which he had to be helped with washing, dressing and eating.

"When he tried to stop his hand shaking and found he no longer could, he'd get irritated and hit the chair hard, as if wanting to say, 'Why is this happening?'" Archbishop Mokrzycki said.

"We sometimes saw him do this during general audiences. Watching him, I realized how much he must be suffering," he said. "He'd always been strong, with so much energy and such an active life. Now, he had to get used to another, weaker self."

The archbishop said Pope John Paul was "fully conscious" April 2, 2005, the last day of his life, blessing visitors and saying farewell to the dozen closest friends at his bedside.

He added that the pontiff's face changed in his final moments and was "beautiful, smooth and without creases" at his death.

Among other details, Archbishop Mokrzycki said Pope John Paul always kept his parents' photo by his bed, as well as images of "Christ the Merciful" and the painting "Ecce Homo" by St. Albert Chmielowski.

Among the pope's key dislikes, the archbishop listed new shoes and having to wear ceremonial dress at official audiences.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Msgr. (now Archbishop) Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, who was the assistant secretary for Pope John Paul II, places flowers on the tomb of the late pope in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica April 2, the anniversary of the death of the Polish pope. The archbishop has written a book about life with the pope.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 31, 2009

May 31, Pentecost Sunday

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23

'Unity in the body of Christ'

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The range of ethnicities, shades of skin color and even languages spoken in our Catholic churches today reminds us of the Scripture from Acts in which those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost heard the Gospel proclaimed to them in their various languages by the apostles. They were amazed that these unlettered Galilean followers of Jesus were able to speak in their diverse languages. But God had sent his Holy Spirit to unify those who had been formed by Jesus on earth.

In the Gospel, Jesus links this empowerment to the Holy Spirit when, following his resurrection, he comes into the disciples' midst, even though the doors are locked, breathes the Holy Spirit on them, and says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

The Gospel of Jesus' cross, resurrection and promise of a new way of life would come to those who were able to say "Jesus is Lord." And, as Paul says in the Acts reading, they could do so only

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul credits the unity that was part of the promise of Pentecost to the work of the Spirit in bringing together the diversity of gifts and forms of service as "workings of the same God."

Fifty years ago, a glance around most of our churches would not have given the same impression of unity among the peoples of our society. Even though the Catholic Church was a leader among our nation's institutions in breaking down walls of separation between ethnic groups, it was a slow and gradual process.

The spread of Christianity after the day of Pentecost, for all of its power and promise, did not establish Christianity around the world immediately. Walls and barriers continued to exist between groups of Christians, barriers that had to be dealt with on a practical, day-to-day level, as documented elsewhere in the book of Acts.

As we pray for continued outpouring of the Spirit, continued breathing of the Spirit of Jesus on his church, we should pray for a continued empowerment to proclaim the Gospel and the wisdom to continue to increase unity in the body of Christ. As happened in the early church, we will increase that unity by recognizing the various gifts and forms of service brought by the many nations who join together to worship and serve under the same church roofs -- our church roofs.

Questions:

Does your parish consist of more than one ethnic group? How can you and your church community move toward a greater unity within the body of Christ?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24-30

Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19; Monday (St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi), Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday (St. Philip Neri), Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; Wednesday (St. Augustine of Canterbury), Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 31-JUNE 6

Sunday (Pentecost), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; Monday (St. Justin), Tobit 1:3; 2:1-8, Mark 12:1-12; Tuesday (St. Marcellinus and St. Peter), Tobit 2:9-14, Mark 12:13-17; Wednesday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions), Tobit 3:1-11, 16-17, Mark 12:18-27; Thursday, Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1, 9-17; 8:4-9, Mark 12:28-34; Friday (St. Boniface), Tobit 11:5-17, Mark 12:35-37; Saturday (St. Norbert), Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20, Tobit 13:2, 6-8, Mark 12:38-44.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

New 'Monologues' play offers hope for healing after abortion

One-act play designed for colleges, high schools

BY JESSICA ROXBURGH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A play created by a member of a Minnesota theater company aims to be an alternative to "The Vagina Monologues," a popular campus play, but one that is often criticized for its sexual explicitness.

Jeremy Stanbary of Epiphany Studio Productions says his play, "The Vitae Monologues," portrays powerful stories of hope and healing from women who have suffered from the psychological and physical effects of abortion.

Stanbary, founder and executive director of the Minneapolis-based Catholic production company, was inspired to write this play a few years ago after hearing women and men speak publicly of their experiences dealing with post-abortion syndrome at a Silent No More event in Minnesota.

Sarah Preissner and Stanbary star in the one-act play designed for performance particularly on college campuses or at high schools.

"These personal and very real testimonies are unfortunately often dismissed by the secular, medical community," said Stanbary.

"The Vitae Monologues" or "The Monologues of Life" opens with a scene in a therapist's office, where several people talk about seemingly unrelated problems they're having in their lives. Each one has experienced trauma in the aftermath of an abortion.

"Oftentimes symptoms don't appear until years later," Stanbary said. "Since Roe v. Wade, women have been repressed and ignored, but we're seeing an influx of women coming forth, telling their stories of post-abortion syndrome — understanding that they are not alone."

"This play gives women a voice within our culture and their stories need to be told," he added. "The greatest deception is that abortion is good for women and helps women."

The play tells the stories of women who "bought into this idea that abortion

would take away their problems," Stanbary said.

But Stanbary and Preissner have heard from an increasing number of women and men who say abortion has had severe psychological effects on them, he said.

Post-abortion syndrome, like post-traumatic stress disorder, reveals itself in a variety of ways.

"We touch on many of these problems in the play such as feelings of overwhelming grief, nightmares, thoughts of suicide, lots of anger, denial and suppression of the root problem, depression, anxiety, feelings of unworthiness as a parent, drug and alcohol abuse, increased sexual promiscuity, and self-hatred," said Stanbary.

"These are real stories from real people," he added.

Although "The Vitae Monologues" shares with the audience a painful reality of the serious aftermath of abortion, it also offers the message that a place of healing and forgiveness can be found through Jesus Christ.

Many might wonder how "The Vitae Monologues" counters "The Vagina Monologues," a play that has caused many protests on Catholic campuses and beyond.

"The Vitae Monologues" deals with the more rotten fruits of the radical feminist movement and sexual revolution, which is abortion," said Stanbary. "Both plays are also meant to be controversial."

"The Vagina Monologues," based on interviews with numerous women, is a series of monologues in which women discuss their sexual experiences, including rape and other forms of violence against them.

Many U.S. college groups across the United States sponsor productions of the play in an effort to raise awareness about sexual violence against women and to raise funds for organizations working with physically abused women.

Young celebrities continue mission, vision of famed 'rosary priest'

BY DAVE JOLIVET
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NORTH EASTON, Mass. — It's a page right from Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton's playbook — or rather his prayer book.

Family Theater Productions in Hollywood, Calif., affiliated with Holy Cross Family Ministries in North Easton, Mass., recently released a DVD, "Rosary Stars Praying the Gospel."

The project aims to spread the Gospel message by making the rosary come alive, particularly for a younger generation of Catholics.

It features 21 young athletes, actors, directors, TV hosts, recording stars, authors and lecturers sharing a Scripture reading, their own personal reflection and a decade of the rosary, encompassing the four sets of mysteries of the rosary: joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous.

It includes a meditation from Father Peyton, known as the "rosary priest."

J. Omar Castro, one of the celebrities recruited to help with the DVD, said he was "flattered to be asked to take part in this DVD."

He has appeared in the television hit shows "Without a Trace" and "CSI," as well as in films with Nicolas Cage and Cuba Gooding Jr.

"I saw this as a great opportunity to show others the power and relevance of the rosary as a prayer tool and maybe to demystify what the rosary is," the Honduran-American actor said.

Father Peyton spread the Gospel message utilizing state-of-the-art resources. He saw a great tool in radio and television to make the rosary come alive for thousands.

He drew in celebrities of the '40s, '50s and '60s to help him carry out Christ's mission. He called on the likes of Gary Cooper, Loretta Young, Jane Wyatt, Gregory Peck, Charlton Heston and many others.

He also organized rosary rallies across the world attended by millions through the years.

In his reflection on the DVD, Castro shared the painful divorce of his parents when he was 8 years old, and told of how praying the rosary helped him during that difficult time.

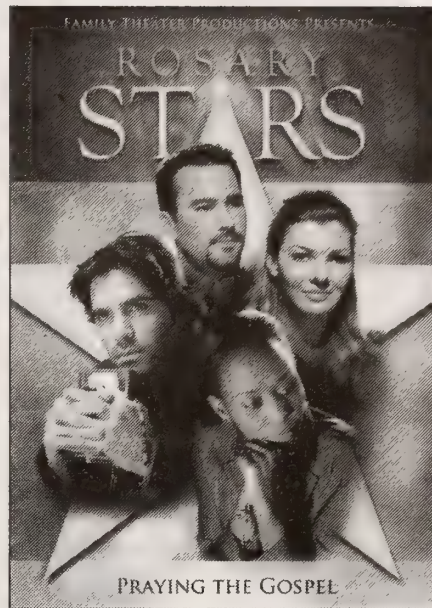
He mentioned how at times he felt God was not answering his prayers, but he persisted in praying the rosary.

Castro said he sees Father Peyton's mission and vision as "very much in the mix even today. There are more people than let on who share Father Peyton's vision."

"Just look at the Rosary Bowl held in 2007 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena (Calif.)," he said. "I was there and amazed that more than 50,000 people showed up on a Saturday night near Hollywood."

"I see a resurgence of younger people praying the rosary, and I hope the DVD can help continue that trend," he said.

"I really don't consider myself a celebrity. I'm just a guy who loves what he's doing, and it's through God's



CNS PHOTO COURTESY FAMILY THEATER PRODUCTIONS

Family Theater Productions in Hollywood, Calif., affiliated with Holy Cross Family Ministries in North Easton, Mass., recently released this DVD, "Rosary Stars Praying the Gospel."

graces that I'm where I am today," Castro added.

Ali Landry, a young actress and former Miss Louisiana and Miss USA, shared many of Castro's sentiments.

Landry, who had a role in the recent film "Bella," heralded for its pro-life message about a young pregnant unwed woman who has the baby, said she agreed to work on the DVD "to share my faith and bring others closer to the Lord."

The Catholic faith played an important role in Landry's upbringing.

"Like Father Peyton said, 'The family that prays together, stays together'; praying the rosary was the glue that held my family and my faith together," she said.

In her DVD reflection, Landry expresses the importance of "reaching out to others."

"Praying the rosary publicly shows others the meaning of opening up and touching someone. When people see and hear the meditations and reflections, it's just a natural thing that some of them are going to be touched, and that's why I wanted to be a part of this," she said.

Like Castro, Landry senses Father Peyton's mission and vision as very much alive in her circles.

"Family Theater Productions has been so important in my life and in the lives of many Catholic actors in Hollywood," she said. "It provides us with a place where we can share our faith and grow in God's love."

She met her husband, Alejandro Gomez Monteverde, at a Bible study program at Family Theater. Monteverde directed and co-wrote "Bella."

Staying focused on God in her profession is difficult, she said. "That's why Family Theater becomes so important and the rosary is such a powerful prayer. The rosary helps you focus on the life and mission of Christ, and sharing with other Catholic actors helps us regain that focus."

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Skateboarding success



COURTESY PHOTO

Lindsay Carnes, a fifth-grader at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem and winner of the national Kids' Science Challenge is seen in this March 31 photograph.

Lindsay won the competition for her entry of a unique skateboard design that would utilize ball technology as opposed to wheels. The nationwide competition, which ran from Oct. 1 to Feb. 28, was open to third- through sixth-grade students. The goal of the competition is to encourage teamwork and thinking "outside the box." The winners, chosen from 770 entries, are given the opportunity to collaborate with scientists and engineers to see their ideas come alive. Lindsay will work with skateboarders and skateboard engineers as they experiment with her design.

S'Cool in school



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the eighth-grade cast of "S'Cool: A Teenage Pop Rock Musical," which was performed at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem May 14. The students, who directed the performance themselves, put on two performances for the student body and their parents.

Medieval monologues



COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro are pictured in costume for their performances of "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village" at the school and at a local book store April 27-28. The performances consisted of seven monologues taken from the book of the same title by Laura Amy Schlitz, who visited the school in March.

Pictured are (back row) Charlotte Hambright, Emily Schettino, Alex Tumlin, Julia Tranguch, Maddie Heyn, Graham Helfrick; (front row) Tia Cappuccio and Anna Marrujo.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

'A leader for all of us'

Catholic receives peacemaker award for outreach efforts

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CHEROKEE — Ever since it established its Peacemaker of the Year Award seven years ago, Mountain Mediation Services has been trying to nominate Mary Herr.

Every year she declined to accept.

"There would be other people mentioned and I felt they were more deserving; and since it was on the (Qualla) Boundary I thought it should be an enrolled member," Herr said. "I didn't feel it was appropriate to accept when I was on the board."

But this year, Herr, a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, was named the 2009 Peacemaker of the Year on the Qualla Boundary, the Cherokee tribal land. She was honored at a luncheon at Cherokee United Methodist Church May 8.

The Tribal Employment Rights Office and the office of Vice Chief Larry Blythe of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians sponsored the luncheon.

"All of us at Mountain Mediation Services are thankful because Mary was one of the founding members of Mountain Mediation Services 15 years ago," said Lorraine Johnson, MMS executive director.

"I never dreamed that (MMS) would take off and do as well as it has," Herr said in her acceptance speech. "It has been a great help to the community. I'm proud to have been a part of it."

Melvina Swimmer, MMS board president, presented the framed award certificate to Herr. She also received a cross made of yellow beads and other gifts from Carol Long of the MMS board of directors and a member of the Eastern Band.

So why did Herr finally agree to accept the award?

"Carol was the one who asked me," Herr said. "She asked me personally; it

was just the way she asked me."

Awards have been or will be presented to other recipients in the counties where they serve.

MMS promotes peace and cooperative resolution to conflicts in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties, and the Qualla Boundary. It's a member of the Mediation Network of North Carolina.

MMS helps resolve conflicts between disputants such as family members, landlords and tenants, employers and employees, teachers and parents, and church members. Issues might include inheritance disputes, broken contracts, neighborhood vandalism, harassment problems, even a neighbor's barking dog.

However, MMS does not deal with violent crimes or domestic violence.

MMS's brochure notes the mediators, trained volunteers from the community, "do not take sides, decide who is right or wrong, or give advice. Mediators guide you through a process that allows you to identify the issues, explore possible solutions and decide which solutions work best."

Johnson described Herr as "someone who is a leader for all of us and someone who is a model of being a peacemaker in our lives."

"Conflict is all around us, a part of life. Mediation teaches that there are two sides to every story," she said. "Mary Herr has shown us, through the work that she does, that people can get along."

"Mary is very active in the Catholic diocese and shows her faith through the work that she does," Johnson continued. "She shows that we are all one and we are all connected. She also understands the importance of staying involved."

In fact, Mary Herr, who has lived on or near the Qualla Boundary for 31 years, has been very involved in a variety of community efforts.

"My life's goal has been to develop local leadership enabling local tribal



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Mary Herr (left), Mountain Mediation Services 2009 Peacemaker of the Year for the Qualla Boundary, and Carol Long, MMS board of directors member, share a moment after the ceremony honoring Herr in Cherokee May 8.

members to assume leadership roles on the Qualla Boundary," she wrote in her biography for the award. "Throughout the years, the Cherokees have produced some very capable and responsible leaders."

Herr has been employed by several legal services programs in Tennessee and North Carolina as a paralegal and community educator, and also with the Catholic Church in Cherokee in this capacity.

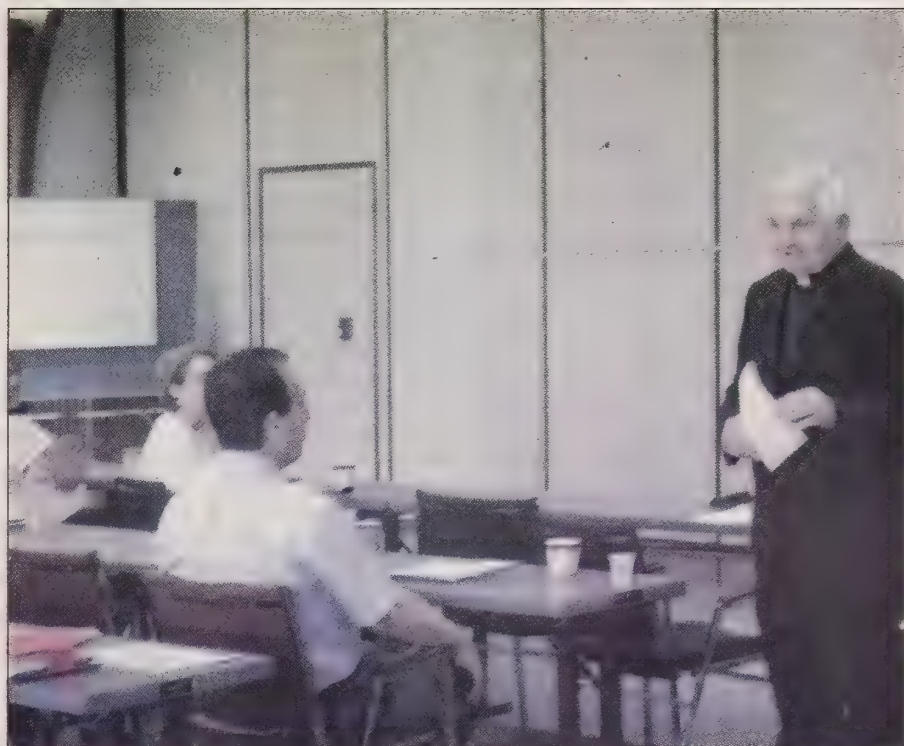
For six years she has worked as program supervisor for the Guardian ad Litem program, which provides court advocacy for abused children in Qualla Boundary and three counties.

In addition to her past service on the Qualla Boundary advisory board for MMS, she currently serves on boards of several nonprofit and community organizations, including the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, Cherokee, Healing and Wellness Coalition, Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Legal Aid of North Carolina and the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity of Catholic Social Services.

Herr retired in 2006 as regional faith formation consultant and Native American multicultural worker for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Leading catechists



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Father James Hawker, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte and former vicar for education, presents "The Catechetical Leader" Called to Be and to Become a Faith-filled Disciple" during an in-service workshop sponsored by the diocesan Education Vicariate at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory May 14. Approximately 50 catechists from around the Diocese of Charlotte, including faith formation teachers, Catholic school religion teachers and youth ministers, participated in the workshop that explored the elements of catechetical leadership.

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THE
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Peaches in spring

Joy is contentment based on faith in God's goodness

I saw a stunningly beautiful woman recently and thought to myself, "What a peach!"

I didn't think of God right away, but it eventually came to me that she was a wonderful advertisement for the author of all beauty. Her particular beauty had more to do with substance than mere good looks; at least, that's how it hit me.

She had something extra that came from within.

Joy is a quality of the soul that is super-added to one's physical appearance. Physical beauty is skin deep, but a joyful soul animates the entire body and tells us something about the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I found Blessed Mother Teresa to be quite beautiful; her aura enveloped you like the aroma of a gardenia. Artists have depicted this inner glow by means of a halo, and yet it is more than an imaginary light.

It is actually a spiritual fragrance flowing from the Holy Spirit.

If you'd like to acquire this beauty-enhancing gift, it is free of charge, but you have to do some serious work. You have to try to experience the delight that comes from a clear conscience and feel the satisfaction of completing a difficult task for the glory of God.

If you enjoy the wonderful feeling that comes from knowing that God really loves you, you'll understand what I mean.

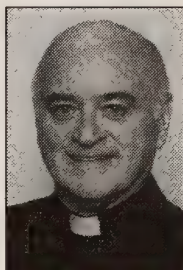
By the way, the knowledge that God loves you is basic to the gift of faith. It helps you to enjoy life more. It's like the noble emotion that flows from the joy of human life.

I'm thinking of a big Italian dinner with good wine, surrounded by family and friends. It's easier to feel wholehearted gratitude to God when your stomach is full and you have laughed much.

If you have never seen the movie "Babette's Feast," give yourself a treat. It opens rather slowly but builds to a wonderful conclusion.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



On a higher level, joy is an inner peace flowing from the knowledge that the Lord is preparing a fantastic place for us in heaven. Believing that you're going to make it to heaven because of God's mercy is not presumption; it is the Christian virtue of hope in action.

How blessed we are and how good God is for loving us in spite of our sins!

To live in the Holy Spirit is to rejoice in the knowledge of God's unchanging love.

Julian of Norwich, a 15th century mystic, said, "The greatest honor you can give to Almighty God is to live joyfully because of the knowledge his love."

Sure, today's times are tough, but we will learn to trim our sails and get through it. Just be sure that you cling to the truth that joy prevails over sorrow. It really does.

"Ask and you will receive," for Jesus always keeps his promises.

The New Catholic Encyclopedia defines "joy" as a pleasant state of quiescence in which the will rests satisfied in possessing a desirable good or in accomplishing a goal that was diligently pursued.

I think of joy as a contentment based on faith in God's goodness. Given the fact that God loves you with an infinite love, you can relax and enjoy the gift of life.

Ecstasy will come later when you receive the beatific vision. But for now, just enjoy life and let your joy shine!

Then you can look peachy too.

Perennial wisdom can be a valuable asset

Good foundation needed to judge contemporary events

"Read from the bottom up," instructed the note at the beginning of an e-mail message.

The entry made little sense on its own. One found its meaning only by reading the original message well below in the string.

"Reading from the bottom up," or knowing the background to provide relevance, is equally necessary in discerning current issues.

A note from a reader in Michigan complained about the lack of moral teaching from the pulpit.

"I would love to hear homilies on today's moral issues," she wrote. "We Catholics need spiritual advice to live in today's modern world as Christians."

No argument there. But let's also consider the plight of the homilist. He has about 15 minutes to speak to complicated issues. Explaining the morality of stem cells, distinguishing between licit adult stem cells and illicit embryonic stem cells is a tall order when starting cold.

A homily or any instruction cannot be effective unless it resonates with a core belief.

Why is the church involved in politics? Why are we having a biology lecture at Mass?

These topics, if located within an integrated understanding of the fundamentals of faith, do make sense. Effective communication requires a basis of understanding. At its simplest, it is almost reflexive.

You're about to step off the curb when a voice yells, "Watch out for that car!"

You jump back without having to process the facts: A car is coming; if it hits me I will be injured.

Good and evil are not as sharply distinguished as in simpler times.

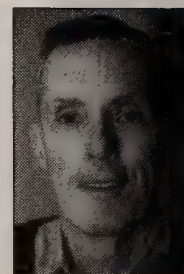
"Does the recent significant change in the American political landscape point to significant changes in the way the Catholic Church and its institutions relate to the American political system?" asked Jesuit Father John Langan at a recent seminar.

Father Langan is a professor of Catholic social thought at Georgetown University in Washington.

"Politics is not simply about elections and personalities and about simple yes or no decisions, but about

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



issues and programs which will usually require more nuanced assessments," he continued.

In a culture where ideas and issues change as rapidly as fashion, some are finding answers in 13th-century philosophy with renewed emphasis on dialogue between faith and contemporary culture.

"In the desire to be relevant, there is a temptation to abandon commitment to perennial wisdom and the understanding of our forbearers," said Dominican Father Thomas Joseph White.

Father White is a theologian at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, where they believe the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas has meaning in contemporary culture.

Thomists are "taking perennial wisdom and engaging in a profound conversation with contemporary issues," said Father White.

A basic understanding of natural law and appreciation of the meaning of human life and the harmony of faith and reason — each is a good foundation that can be used to judge contemporary events, and that is "reading from the bottom up."

The harmony of faith and reason insisted upon by Aquinas is vital today.

"These two temptations of faith against reason or reason against faith are very prevalent," Father White said.

"One tendency is to think that faith and reason are rivals, so that either reason exalts itself and only finds its independence denying faith ..., or I have to just believe, to have faith, abandon myself to God, ... and there's no point of contact with my ordinary reason and my ordinary life," he said.

Perennial wisdom is a valuable asset for making the nuanced assessments necessary if we are to engage in conversation rather than confrontation.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

What is happening to the kiss?

Swine flu spurs examination of act with divine origins

When dioceses notified parishioners to keep a distance from each other at the kiss of peace because of the swine flu, I began to wonder about the future of the kiss.

As word of a pandemic spread, it was as if all kissing was forbidden. Even the French took precautions to avoid the traditional cheek-to-cheek kiss.

And, too, the business world is now requiring employees and employers to attend sexual harassment sessions that counsel: better not to kiss, no matter the circumstances.

Are we entering an age in which any kind of kissing is suspect?

To answer this, let's look at its many sides.

The "bacio della morte" is one kiss you definitely don't want to receive because it indicates you are going to die at the hands of the mob.

In Scripture, the betrayal kiss of Judas reflects deceit and hypocrisy.

Kisses like these are demeaning and

without value.

On the other hand, a proper kiss is heavenly. Take, for example, Pope John Paul II kissing the ground upon entering a country as a sign of respect and gratitude.

How often did our mother kiss a painful bump we received to acknowledge she also felt it and was trying to make it go away?

Then there is the life-changing kiss. "He kissed me and now I am someone else" by Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral.

British poet Robert Browning pictures a kiss as a sigh: "What of the soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing had to stop?"

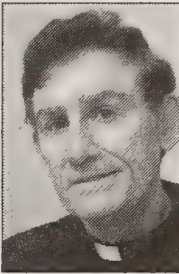
Irish writer Samuel Beckett would point us to all the warm, loving kisses we received throughout life:

"All those lips that had kissed me, those hearts that had loved me (it is with the heart one loves, is it not, or am I confusing it with something else?)."

The lingering power of a kiss is

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



played in a heart-wrenching song in the movie "Casablanca": "You must remember this, a kiss is still a kiss, a sigh is just a sigh; the fundamental things apply as time goes by."

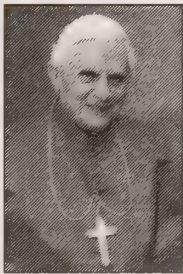
Most important of all, a kiss is imperative to our spiritual life.

Mary Magdalene washes the feet of Christ and then kisses them out of love for Christ.

No matter the present suspicions surrounding a kiss, it will always have a future because of its divine origins.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



God can bring peace to Middle East, pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said his visit to the Holy Land was a pilgrimage of faith and of peace, and an occasion to bear witness to the fact that even in desperate situations of tension believers trust in the power of God.

"In that land blessed by God, it sometimes seems impossible to break the spiral of violence, but nothing is impossible for God and for those who trust in him," the pope said May 20 at his weekly general audience.

"For this reason, faith in the one God — just and merciful — is the most precious resource" of the Christians, Muslims and Jews living in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, he said.

Reviewing his May 8-15 trip for the 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope said that in his meetings with government leaders he tried to be a messenger of peace and to remind everyone that faith should help the region's people unleash the power of respect, reconciliation and cooperation.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My recent Apostolic Journey to the Holy Land was a pilgrimage to the sources of our faith and a pastoral visit to the Christian communities in the lands of our Lord's birth, death and resurrection.

I am grateful to the civil authorities, the Latin Patriarch and the Bishops of the local Churches, the Franciscan friars of the Custody of the Holy Land and all those who contributed to the journey. Throughout my visit I wished to be a pilgrim of peace, reminding Jews, Christians and Muslims alike of our commitment, as believers in the one God, to promote respect, reconciliation and cooperation in the service of peace.

In Jerusalem, "the city of peace" sacred to the followers of the three great monotheistic traditions, this was the message I brought to the holy places, and particularly to the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock. One of the most solemn moments was the commemoration of the victims of the Shoah at Yad Vashem.

My visit to the local Churches culminated in the Masses celebrated in Amman, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth.

My pilgrimage ended in prayer on Calvary and before the Holy Sepulchre, the empty tomb, which continues to radiate a message of hope for individuals and for the whole human family.

Ten easy ways to make summer a bummer

For summer fun, don't follow this advice

To rephrase Psalm 118:24: "This is the summer the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad."

But that's not always easy to do, is it?

Summer 2009 may be a tough one for your family for any number of reasons, including household economics! But here are 10 easy ways to guarantee your summer is a bummer:

1. Assume that because money is tight, joy is impossible. If you can't make it to the major theme park or rent that cabin in mountains, what's the point? Never mind that several trips to the local park and some nights in an old camping tent in the backyard can be sources for a lot of happy memories. (Note to self: S'mores can be made using the microwave.)
2. Don't plant a small vegetable garden. Don't plant flowers. After all, who wants more vegetables? And what good are flowers? Sure, the produce you don't eat yourselves can be given to friends or donated to the local food bank. And, yes, flowers will brighten up your home and make great gifts for family and friends but ...
3. Don't plan Sunday brunch picnics for after Mass. You bring food into a

lovely park and the next thing you know there are ants or, worse, there are yellow jackets or other bees. And it could be hot out.

4. Avoid at all costs the temptation to look in the newspaper or go online to find out what shows, exhibits or other events in your area are free or have a low, low cost. If you're not careful, your children will be exposed to great music and art. Or they'll want to see another play or go to another (semipro) ballgame. Worse still, they may start thinking about playing a musical instrument, drawing, writing or sharpening their athletic skills themselves!
5. Money's not a problem? Get the kids so involved in organized activities that they don't have time to lie in the grass, stare up at the clouds and daydream.
6. Pin all your hopes on next summer. It has to be better, right? Assume this one is a total loss and next year's will be nearly perfect. Absolutely no troubles, challenges, setbacks or disappointments.
7. Stall through summer 2009 because it won't be too many more summers before your children are off on their own.

Your Family

BILL AND
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DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS



8. Let Sunday Mass attendance slide. Lots of people do that, don't they? You deserve an extra day to sleep in. Your kids and your spouse aren't always keen on going anyway. You're doing them a favor. Hey, it's summer! Right?
9. Still employed? Point out at work that your employer didn't schedule you for the two weeks off you really wanted. Do the same at home. Frequently. They need to know how hard it is being you.
10. When in doubt, mope. Your children depend on you to show them how to handle a variety of situations, including a summer that seems less than ideal. Increase their vocabulary by demonstrating what "surly" really means.



CNS PHOTO BY PETER FINNEY JR., CLARION HERALD

Father Sinclair Oubre, president of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States, celebrates Mass during the group's national convention in New Orleans May 8.

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Hazards on the sea

Escalating piracy has roots in fishing encroachment, priest says

BY PETER FINNEY JR.
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS — The rampant piracy in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia's coast has its roots in the encroachment into fishing zones by large fishing vessels from other countries, but that does not excuse the escalating violence launched by pirates against oceangoing vessels, said a priest who has a ministry to seafarers.

Father Sinclair Oubre, president of the Apostleship of the Sea USA, made the comments at the group's annual convention in New Orleans.

A priest of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, Father Oubre also heads the Apostleship of the Sea for his diocese.

Speaking May 8, he said port chaplains first began hearing reports of piracy in the Gulf of Aden five to seven years ago.

Those disputes mostly involved encroachment on fishing territories, but "because no big Western ships were getting hit, it was no big deal," Father Oubre said. "It's good that we are finally paying attention to it."

European fishing ships went to the coast of Somalia and secured "either very advantageous fishing rights or else there was basically no one able to enforce the fishing zones," Father Oubre said. "Basically those boats began exploiting the area. At the root of the piracy is the Somali fishermen attacking those boats to defend their area."

Those disputes escalated to the point where the attacks were staged and coordinated by Somali warlords, "the same warlords that the U.S. Marines and Army fought back in the 1990s," Father Oubre said.

But this "Robin Hood" motivation "does not justify the piracy," he added.

The pirates have kidnapped ships' crews and demanded ransom for their release, calling themselves modern-day Robin Hoods trying to get compensation to replace a dwindling livelihood as fishermen.

The Apostleship of the Sea convention drew a group of 40 port chaplains and priests involved in ministry on cruise ships. The convention approved a message to seafarers that "irrevocably condemns the issue of piracy and prays for all seafarers who face hazardous shipping routes."

"An important part of our message to seafarers is to not only recognize the challenges, difficulties and hardships they face but also to acknowledge that what they are doing is essential to the quality of our lives," Father Oubre said.

"If the ships don't sail, the cars don't drive in Florida and you don't get your TVs or your computers. It's mariners who do that service," he said.

The organization also reaffirmed a resolution it approved in 2008 that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires the certification of all port chaplains through a process established by its office.

Filipino sailors, most of them Catholic, make up half of the international crews on the world's merchant marine ships, Father Oubre said.

After years of intense security at U.S. ports because of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — keeping virtually all foreign seafarers restricted to their ships when they make port — the U.S. Coast Guard is finally telling port facilities to write "a facility plan that must include procedures for coordinating shore leave," Father Oubre said.

"The frustration for us has been, 'OK, what is justifying this higher security?'" he said. "There's a strong feeling in AOS that seafarers have been targeted for higher security, with no justification for it. None of the Sept. 11 attackers were seafarers. None of them had merchant marine documents."

Since 2003, when stricter security rules went into place, a seafarer who signs off a ship to go home "has to be immediately moved from the ship to the airport."

Father Oubre said the restrictions on foreign crews have persuaded U.S. pilots to avoid shuttling vessels between Europe and North America "because it's a hassle. You're not going to get the best guys if they can avoid that situation."

Father Oubre, a seafarer himself, cobbles together vacation time to spend three weeks to a month on the seas.

"There are hardships and difficulties and dirty work," he said. "But there are also the wonders of being blessed by watching the sun come up each day and the glory of the heavens at the end of the day."

"To watch the flying fish and the porpoises dance as we plow through the water is a blessing," he said.



CNS PHOTO VIA REUTERS

The Maersk Alabama, a U.S.-flagged container ship, is seen in this undated photo released April 8. The crew of the freighter hijacked by pirates off Somalia retook control of the ship April 8 but their captain, Richard Phillips, a parishioner at St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, Vt., was not freed until April 12 in a dramatic rescue, ending the pirates' five-day standoff with American naval forces.



THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Examining Obama's Notre
Dame speech; overcoming
struggles; good living

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Dispelling the 'fear of the unknown'

Ministry reaches out to
families of babies with
Down syndrome

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A local chapter of a support group for women and families who are dealing with difficult pregnancies is expanding their program to reach out to mothers of unborn babies who are diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Elizabeth Ministry is an international outreach designed to support women and their families during the joys and sorrows of the childbearing years.

In the past, one of the primary services of Elizabeth Ministry has been providing

See DOWN, page 9

Spiritual bonds

Students, parishioners
share prayers, faith
through program

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — For the fifth year in a row, Immaculata School teacher Mary Ashbrook paired her eighth-grade students with anonymous "spiritual sponsors"

See SPONSORS, page 12

Faith, fact and fiction



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Marble sculptures of angels are seen on the Sant'Angelo bridge in Rome May 1. The bridge plays a part in novelist Dan Brown's book "Angels & Demons," which was adapted to a film that premiered in Rome May 4 at a theater a mile away from Vatican City.

Catholic scientists
debunk 'Angels &
Demons' depiction of
science, faith clash

BY MARIA WIERING
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A bomb. A secret sect of anti-Catholic scientists. A church straddling ancient traditions and the modern world.

Although the plot of "Angels & Demons" is a hunt for centuries-old clues that could lead to a hidden explosive set to blow apart Vatican City, a recurring theme in the movie revolves around the relationship between faith and science.

According to the movie, which opened in theaters May 15, the two have been at odds since the springtime of science and today they continue to see themselves in antagonistic and sometimes

See DEBUNK, page 5

Focusing on the identity of Christ

High school youths gather for diocesan conference

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

RIDGECREST — Youths from across the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered to grow in faith and reflect on the challenges of their baptismal promises.

Approximately 300 youths and adults took part in the 32nd annual Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) at

Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest April 24-26.

The theme, "Born Identity: From Him, Through Him, For Him," reminded the youths that through baptism they are born into the mission of Christ. The retreat also challenged them to seek and spread the truth to all.

"DYC was a successful expression and reflection of the

See DYC, page 6



Youths participate in an activity during a concert by a member of the performing duo Smallfish at the Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest April 25.

Around the Diocese
N.C. bishops and public
policy; local events

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Culture Watch
Book on JFK; Vatican and
Internet evangelization

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Field Martyrs
U.S. seminarians finish
second in soccer match

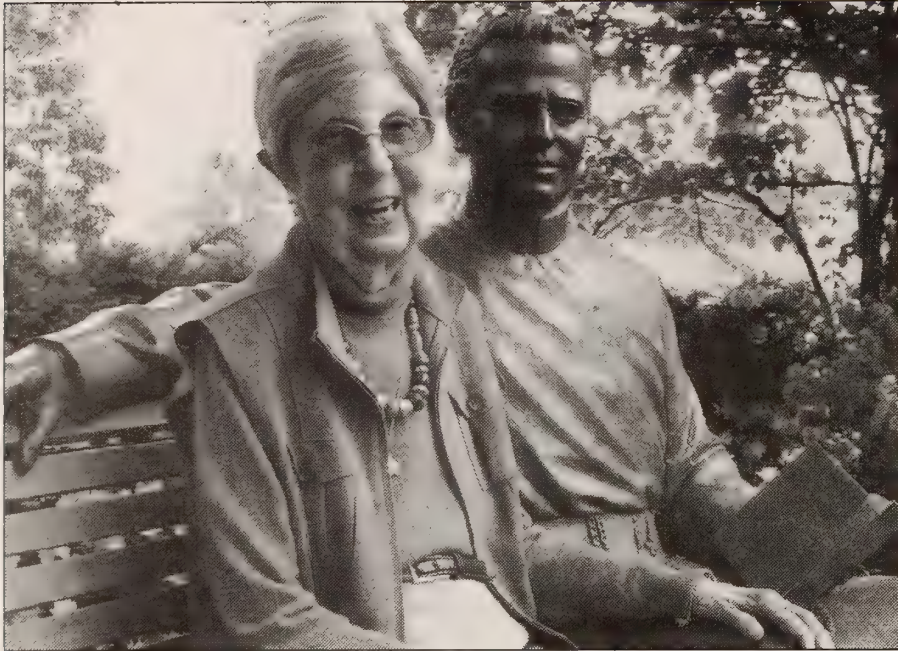
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

MUCH-NEEDED MIRACLE



CNS PHOTO BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR., CATHOLIC REVIEW

Mary Ellen Heibel, a parishioner of St. Mary Church in Annapolis, Md., sits next to a statue of Blessed Francis X. Seelos at her parish. Heibel believes her cancer was cured through Blessed Seelos' intercession.

Baltimore Archdiocese investigates possible miracle in Seelos cause

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Go home and prepare to die.

That's what Mary Ellen Heibel's doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington told her May 11, 2004, after they discovered that the cancer that had attacked Heibel's esophagus in 2003 and then a lymph node later that year had spread throughout her body.

Given about six months to live, the longtime parishioner of St. Mary Church in Annapolis underwent a new form of chemotherapy at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore as a palliative treatment to extend her life.

But doctors warned it would only postpone the inevitable.

At the suggestion of a Pittsburgh priest, Heibel began praying a novena in 2005 to Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 19th-century Redemptorist pastor of her parish who died of yellow fever in 1867 in New Orleans.

One week after she began the novena at her parish, Heibel's cancer disappeared. Gone were tumors in both lungs, her liver, back and sternum. When Dr. Michael Gibson, her doctor at Johns Hopkins, called with the news, Heibel couldn't believe it.

"I was just so excited. I called everyone," the 71-year-old mother of four remembered. "I never thought in a million years this would happen."

Told by her doctors that the unexplained healing could not be the result of her chemotherapy, Heibel is convinced that Blessed Seelos interceded on her behalf.

"I know this had to be a miracle," she said.

Archdiocesan officials are currently

investigating whether Heibel might just be right.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien opened an archdiocesan inquiry into the alleged healing with a May 19 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

The archbishop also appointed a group to investigate the case and listen to testimony from Heibel, Gibson and other witnesses.

The commission's findings will be sent to Father Antonio Marrazzo, Redemptorist postulator general in Rome, who will then take them to the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes. If the healing is deemed miraculous, Blessed Seelos could be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI.

Redemptorist Father John Kingsbury, pastor of St. Mary Church, said the possible healing is a "major breakthrough" in the canonization effort.

Two miracles that occur after death are generally needed for a sainthood candidate to be canonized. Acceptance of a first miracle through the intercession of the German-born Redemptorist led to his beatification by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

The confirmed miracle was the cure of a Louisiana woman whose complete recovery from inoperable liver cancer in 1966 could not be explained by her doctors. The miracle needed for canonization could be the Heibel case.

"We're very happy that the archbishop has opened the investigation," Father Kingsbury said. "I'm glad Mary Ellen was healed no matter what — and, if it's (Blessed) Seelos and it helps his cause, it would be wonderful."

Bishop praises court for affirming voters' right to define marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Speaking on behalf of his fellow Catholic bishops in California, Bishop Stephen E. Blaize of Stockton praised the California Supreme Court for upholding the voters' affirmation of marriage as the union of a man and a woman, but expressed disappointment that the court permitted an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples to remain legally married.

The May 26 ruling of the high court upheld the constitutionality of the state's Proposition 8 declaring that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California," but said the voters' decision could not be applied retroactively to those who married before the initiative was passed.

Bishop Blaize said he and his fellow bishops "are strongly committed to protecting the dignity and worth of every human person" and supported "the intent of law to provide equal protection for all."

"However, such purpose does not have to trump the natural and traditional

definition of marriage between a man and a woman," he added in a May 26 statement. "The law has found other ways to regulate civil unions without destroying the traditional understanding of marriage. We believe — as do the majority of Californians — that marriage between a man and a woman is foundational to our culture and crucial for human perpetuity."

In a Nov. 4, 2008, vote, 52 percent of the state's electorate approved Proposition 8.

The majority decision drew immediate praise from the Campaign to Protect Marriage, a coalition that had included the state's Catholic bishops and other Catholic groups.

But organizations that had opposed Proposition 8 said they would work to repeal the measure through a ballot initiative in 2010.

Same-sex marriage is currently legal in Massachusetts, Iowa, Connecticut, Vermont and Maine.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. (no study July 15). The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held June 14 in the St. Matthew Parish Center Family Room, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up in the church narthex following weekend Masses, May 30-31 and June 6-7. Participants will need to bring a picture ID. Appointments will be honored, walk-ins will be accepted as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne

Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

CHARLOTTE — An *Evening of Recollection for Men*, conducted by a priest of Opus Dei, will be held in the daily Mass chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., June 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. A priest will be available to hear confessions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church, which aims to help people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155, or e-mail joremy.ignacio@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Morning of Recollection for Women*, conducted by a priest of Opus Dei, will be held in the daily Mass chapel at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., June 6, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 12 p.m. The priest is available for confessions starting at 9:30 a.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church, that aims to help people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or remy_ignacio@hotmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass for U.S. military personnel* July 5 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary, to be prayed at 2:30 p.m., will be offered for military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. All military personnel are invited, and encouraged to come in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving in the military will be displayed in the cathedral. To include your loved ones, mail a color or black-and-white photocopy of them with their names and military ranks on the back of the photos to Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, to be received no later than July 1. Photocopies of pictures will not be returned.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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MAY 29, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 29

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican condemns North Korean nuclear test, missile launches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has condemned the latest round of nuclear testing and missile launching by North Korea, warning that these acts of aggression threaten “the very survival” of the country’s own people by exacerbating its isolation.

The Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, published a front-page news story May 27 along with an editorial titled “International isolation as a regime’s choice.”

North Korea drew swift and angry international condemnation after announcing May 25 that it had successfully performed a nuclear experiment. Seismic equipment registered a small blast in the eastern portion of the country. Three short-range missiles were then launched into the Sea of Japan.

The following day, May 26, two more missiles were launched off the country’s eastern coast.

In its commentary, *L’Osservatore*

said, “But even before being a threat to peace, this atomic experiment constitutes a threat to the very survival of the North Korean people who will pay the consequences of the isolation the regime has chosen.”

Calling the North Korean government a “Stalinist regime,” the editorial said the country “risks total isolation after its latest challenge to the international community.”

North Korea conducted its first nuclear experiment Oct. 9, 2006. In early April 2009, it unsuccessfully launched a rocket in an attempt to place a satellite in orbit.

This time, the editorial said, even Russia and China seem prepared to invoke sanctions.

Behind the North Korean show of force, it said, “there probably is an internal crisis due to the leadership of Kim Jong-il who has never been able to dissipate the impression that he is a pale copy of his father, Kim Il-sung.”

CHARLOTTE — Children with disabilities are invited to join *Allegro classes*, a fun learning environment where movement and instruction are combined. Classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Classes are free but registration is required. Call for the schedule as classes will not be held on certain dates. For more information, contact Nettie Watkins at the Allegro Foundation (704) 412-5229 or pfallegro@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The rosary is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — An *International Festival* will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., May 31 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share; beverages are provided. There will be entertainment and exhibits from exotic places around the world, as well as special entertainment for children. It’s all free. For more information, call (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — To commemorate the 15th anniversary of perpetual eucharistic adoration at Maryfield nursing home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., a special Mass for Corpus Christi will be celebrated in the Maryfield chapel June 14 at 3 p.m. Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will be the chief celebrant. Refreshments will be served following Mass.

GREENSBORO — A Mass in the extraordinary form to celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., June 21 at 4 p.m. A women’s and men’s schola will be formed for the chants of the Mass. Interested singers should contact Robin Shea at RSHEA@triad.rr.com for the women’s schola and Brian Marble at musicdirector@olgchurch.org for the men’s schola to arrange rehearsals.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGHLANDS — Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church is one of five Highlands-area churches participating in *weekly Taize Prayer Services* throughout the summer months. The ecumenical services will be held at 5:30 p.m. each Thursday at a different church. The first service at Our Lady of the Mountains Church will be Thursday, June 11. All are invited to attend the services intended to unite Christians in prayer. For more information, call Ed Boos at (828) 526-3353.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad gather on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open for fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or katie_knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoores@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican newspaper criticizes embryonic stem cell research

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the continuing debate over stem cell research, the ideologues are those who claim it is necessary to use embryonic stem cells, an Italian research physician wrote in the Vatican newspaper.

A growing body of research has proven that a variety of somatic stem cells — usually referred to as adult stem cells — holds more promise for curing many diseases than stem cells derived from embryos, wrote Dr. Angelo Vescovi, a professor at Milan’s Bicocca University and a researcher at the Cerebral Stem Cell Bank in Terni.

Vescovi’s full-page article May 27 in *L’Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, was headlined “Behind embryonic stem cell research there is only a patent war.”

“The decision made in March by U.S. President Barack Obama to use federal funds to finance research on stem cells derived from the destruction of human embryos — embryonic stem cells — has reignited the polemics regarding a theme with complex bioethical implications,” the doctor wrote.

He said that while promoters of embryonic stem cell research like to label opponents as ideologues or religious extremists, science itself has proven that those who insist on destroying human

embryos are the ones being unreasonable.

Research is now showing that reprogramming adult stem cells can produce cells that are just as flexible as embryonic stem cells and they can be produced in greater quantity, Vescovi said.

The new procedure is not protected “by those patents that currently exploit the use of stem cells derived from embryos,” he said.

The insistence on continuing embryonic stem cell research, he said, appears not to be tied to scientific promise, but to “billions of dollars of investment, an entire river of patents and entire careers based precisely on the use of embryos.”

Still, the doctor said he was not pessimistic about the future.

“I have been a researcher for almost 30 years and I have faith in the fact that, in research, truth triumphs in the end,” he wrote.

“Science, by its nature, inevitably favors the selection and development of the most efficient branches, those that give the most total respect to human life,” he said.

What is needed to give a push to research using adult stem cells is simply the dedication of more resources, both human and financial, the doctor said.

After the blast



CNS PHOTO BY SHRUTI SHRESTHA, REUTERS

Women pray for the deceased at a blast site inside the Catholic Church of the Assumption in Katmandu, Nepal, May 24. Two people were killed and at least a dozen wounded when an explosion ripped through the church May 23.

Good reviews: Vatican newspaper sees Obama’s start in positive light

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper has offered some unexpectedly upbeat reviews of the President Barack Obama’s first four months in office.

L’Osservatore Romano opined that Obama seems to have moved away from his 2008 campaign rhetoric on legislation that would enshrine abortion as a fundamental right and remove local limitations on the

practice of abortion.

Obama coverage has been on a wide range of issues, especially foreign policy. The newspaper has found much to its liking regarding the Israeli-Palestinian situation (the president’s position was in “full harmony” with that of the pope), Middle East outreach, disarmament, the Americas, multilateralism and human rights, diplomacy, the economy and the environment.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- June 1 (11 a.m.)
Blessing of Holy Redeemer Cemetery
Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte
- June 3 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

- June 2—June 4
Seminarian retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
- June 6 (10 a.m.)
Priestly ordination Mass of
Deacon Benjamin Roberts
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishops issue alert on sex education bill

CHARLOTTE — Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh issued an e-mail alert on pending sex education legislation in North Carolina.

The May 27 alert was sent to those registered with Catholic Voice NC, the nonpartisan initiative, and Web site operated jointly by the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

It asks Catholics to oppose possible changes to the sex education bill, which the bishops describe as "the euphemistically titled Healthy Youth Act."

The bill was scheduled for discussion in the Senate Mental Health and Youth Services Committee May 27. However, lawmakers apparently received such a large volume of protests via telephone calls and e-mails that the bill was pulled from consideration May 27 and rescheduled for consideration June 3.

The bill would allow parents to

decide if their children should be enrolled in an abstinence-only program or an abstinence-based, comprehensive sex education program. Under the House version, a child whose parents made no choice on the consent form would not receive the comprehensive sex education.

The bishops' chief concern with the Senate version of the bill is that if parents do not indicate a choice, their child will automatically receive the comprehensive sex education — an approach the bishops have opposed in the past.

The bishops prefer the abstinence until marriage approach that is currently taught in public schools as mandated by state law.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Voice NC, visit www.catholicvoicenc.org.

Bishops, other leaders oppose pending legislation

CHARLOTTE — North Carolina's Catholic bishops issued a joint statement opposing a bill under consideration by state legislators.

Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh are among religious and human rights leaders voicing opposition to the third edition of Senate Bill 461, the North Carolina Racial Justice Act.

The bishops' representative to the legislature, Msgr. Michael Clay of the Diocese of Raleigh, read the bishops' statement at a press conference in Raleigh May 28.

The conference was sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Churches, the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other groups.

While the groups support the concept of the Racial Justice Act, they oppose it

in its current form under consideration.

The original version of the act recognized the past and present existence of racial injustice in the state judicial system. A recent amendment would allow doctors to ignore the Hippocratic Oath in administering lethal drugs to inmates who have received the death sentence.

The requirement that physicians act as executioners in North Carolina has effectively stopped capital punishment in the state.

"A bill that acknowledges that black men have been put to death due to racial bias, and at the same time restores the practice of capital punishment in a state where such bias has unjustifiably placed black men on death row in North Carolina to the present day, is beyond comprehension," said the bishops' statement.

The bill is currently being reviewed by the House Ways and Means Committee.

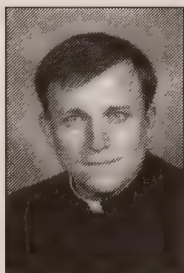
Father Houseknecht receives doctorate in preaching

(ST. LOUIS) — Father Eric Houseknecht, a former priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, recently received a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo.

Father Houseknecht, currently parochial vicar of St. Timothy Church in Mesa, Ariz., received the degree during a commencement ceremony at St. Francis Xavier Church at St. Louis University May 8.

The degree was one of 11 doctorates in preaching conferred at the ceremony, during which 48 people received graduate degrees.

Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry administered by the Order of



Father Eric Houseknecht

Preachers (Dominicans), and offers both residential and on-line degree programs.

It is the only Catholic institution in the United States to offer a doctoral degree in preaching.

Columbiettes elect officers



COURTESY PHOTO

The Columbiettes' new state officers for North Carolina are pictured during a convention in Raleigh April 25. The officers were elected and installed to serve for the 2009-10 term.

Pictured are (from left) Mary Long, guide and president, Clemmons; Jeannie McGaffigan, advocate, Clemmons; Carol Pennington, treasurer, Kernersville; Pam Komlfofke, financial secretary, Fayetteville; Ann Mulvaney, vice president, Fayetteville; Marge Benes, past president, Fayetteville; Carol Samperton, president, Fayetteville; and Gail Rackley, guide and past president, Fayetteville.

Not pictured is Paula Johnson, sentinel, Kernersville.

The Columbiettes is the women's auxiliary group of the Knights of Columbus. The group supports local charities and provides social events in a Christian setting.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD



Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of June

Rev. Msgr. Richard Allen	2005
Rev. Guy E. Morse	2000
Rev. Msgr. Roueche	2000

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Catholic scientists debunk 'Angels & Demons' science, faith clash

DEBUNK, from page 1

irreconcilable terms.

But this perception is far from reality, according to Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory in Arizona and Castel Gandolfo, the papal villa outside Rome.

"Quite simply, the church has always supported science," Brother Consolmagno told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Modern science was born in European Catholic universities and some of history's best scientists were clergymen, he noted.

That's why the books of Dan Brown — the author of "Angels & Demons" and "The Da Vinci Code" — are in the bookstore's fiction section, where they belong, he said.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, said misunderstandings about the compatibility of faith and science arise because of the different "languages" they use.

In actuality, science and religion have distinct yet compatible domains, he added.

Brother Consolmagno said the myth of the "war" between science and religion grew out of the Enlightenment at the end of the 19th century. In order to attract students to the emerging German secular universities, Enlightenment supporters portrayed the church as anti-science and against progress, he said.

"It really doesn't go back to Galileo;

"My religion tells me God created the universe. My science tells me how he did it."

— Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno

it goes back to the politics of what was happening in Europe and America 100 years ago," he said.

The case of 17th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei is the often-used example of a collision between the church and science.

Galileo was condemned by the church's Holy Office for suspected heresy in 1633 for maintaining that the earth revolved around the sun but he was "rehabilitated" in 1992 by a special Vatican commission established by Pope John Paul II.

The Galileo controversy has taught the church to be careful when speaking on matters of science, Father Pacholczyk said. For example, on the topic of evolution, the church continues to engage in an ongoing discussion about the proper understanding of evolutionary science.

A person seeking to understand humankind's place in the universe should seek to understand both faith and science, the priest said.

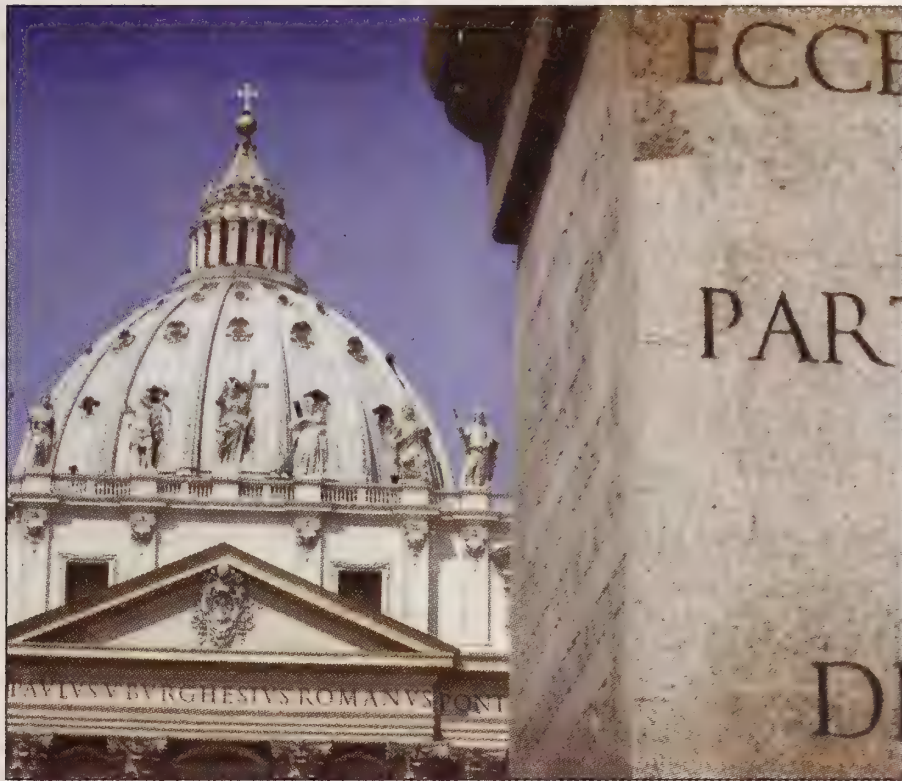
As Brother Consolmagno put it: "My religion tells me God created the universe. My science tells me how he did it."

Although the church is not against science, he said it acts as a check on science's rapidly advancing abilities.

In the early 20th century, for example, the Catholic Church called for a stop to eugenics, which aims to improve the human species by selective breeding.

"Eugenics is bad science," Brother Consolmagno added. "Even if it is good science, it still would have been wrong. That's an example, I think, where people who treat science without religion can fall into grave error."

Today, the church rejects technologies that devalue the dignity of the human person, such as cloning, embryonic stem cell research and the production of weapons of mass terror.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

The ancient Egyptian obelisk in St. Peter's Square is seen juxtaposed with St. Peter's Basilica May 1. Both play a part in novelist Dan Brown's book "Angels & Demons," which was adapted to a film starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard.



CNS PHOTO BY SONY

Tom Hanks stars in a scene from the movie "Angels & Demons."

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heard God's voice

20%



Responses from 1,648 random adults in fall 2007.
Source: Baylor University Institute for Studies of Religion
©2008 CNS

YOUTHS IN ACTION

Youths gather for annual diocesan conference

DYC, from page 1

vibrant and growing faith of the young church of western North Carolina and the adults who work with them," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry.

"Through the various workshops and homilies, participants were challenged to realize the power of their baptismal call to a life of conversion to holiness and to be a leaven in society," he said.

In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's proclamation that June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009 is a year dedicated to St. Paul, the conference's theme was meant to invoke the spirit of St. Paul by highlighting the message of his letters.

The mission statement for this year's conference as composed by the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council states, "St. Paul reminds us that we have an identity in Jesus Christ, who instills strength within us to live our faith."

"I hope that those who took part in this year's conference realize that they are part of something much bigger than themselves," said Kotlowski, referring to the universal church. "They are called to build the kingdom of God."

Each year at the conference several awards are presented to clergy, youths and

adults who have displayed outstanding leadership and service in the area of youth ministry.

At this year's conference the John Paul II Award, which recognizes ordained men who exemplify love for the youth of the church, was presented to Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

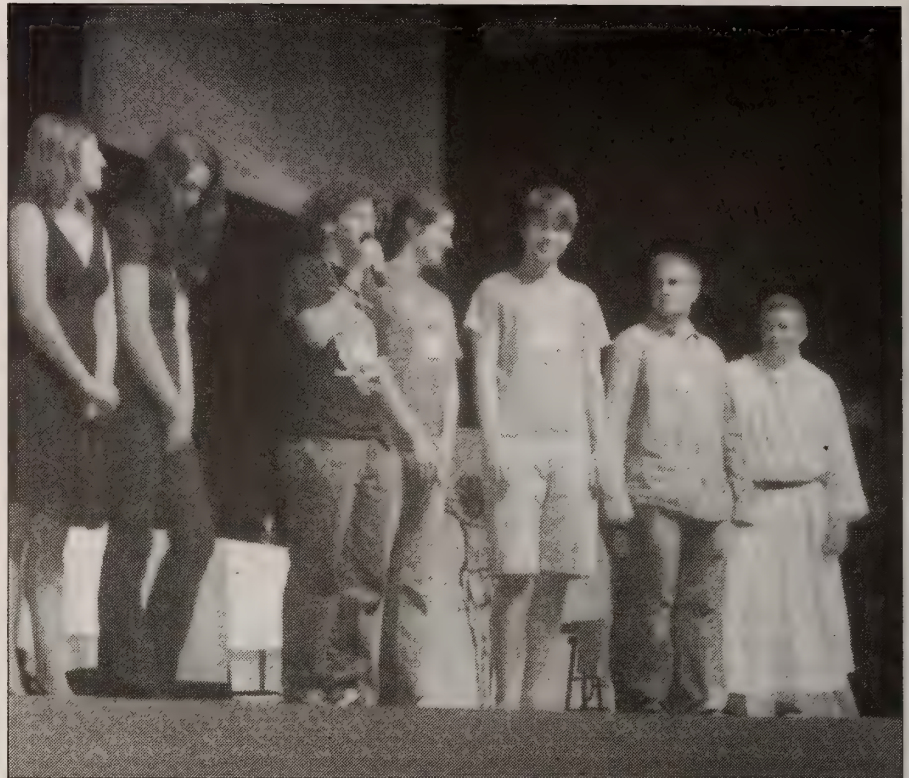
The Bishop Begely Award, for youths involved in social justice and outreach, was presented to Nicole Lehman of Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

The St. Timothy Award, for a youth exemplifying outstanding discipleship, was presented to Eric Fischer of St. Mark Church and Katie Finegan of Haywood Catholic Youth — a youth group comprised of young people from St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville and Immaculate Conception Mission in Canton.

The Bishop Curlin Award, for an individual or group exemplifying outstanding pastoral care, was presented to Kim and Derick Medlin of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on diocesan youth ministry, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/youthministry.html.



COURTESY PHOTO

Youths perform on stage during the Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest April 25.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

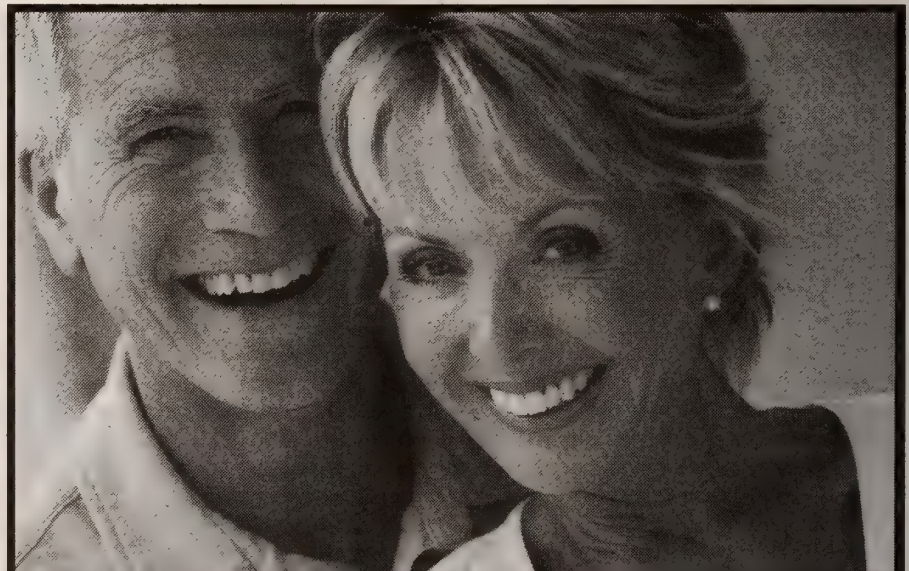
Spiritual Scout



COURTESY PHOTO

Bobby Kawecki, a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Charlotte and a Life Scout with Troop 80, is pictured May 4 after earning his fourth Boy Scout Catholic religious emblem, the Pope Pius XII.

Bobby earned the first two emblems, the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei, as a Cub Scout and earned the second two, the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII, as a Boy Scout. He also earned a Pillars of Faith, Duty to God pin for earning all four emblems.



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RESPECT LIFE

'Signs of erosion'

Attorney traces federal conscience-clause protection to Roe decision

BY BETH GRIFFIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — "Signs of erosion" of support for federal conscience-clause protection began to appear about 10 years ago and have continued at the state level, attorney Susan Stabile told a group of Catholic health care leaders May 21.

She discussed two potential federal threats to conscience claims, and concluded that neither one would specifically repeal conscience protection for health care workers.

Stabile, who holds the Robert and Marion Short distinguished chair in law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, spoke on "Legal Challenges to Catholic Health Care: The Elimination of the Conscience Clause and Related Concerns."

She delivered the address during the 25th Catholic Healthcare Administrative Personnel program May 18-22 at St. John's University in New York.

Stabile cited Department of Health and Human Services regulations adopted in December 2008 to ensure that "recipients of department funds do not support coercive or discriminatory practices" in the delivery of health care. She said the regulations did not create new restrictions or grant substantive rights.

Earlier this year, HHS proposed rescinding the federal conscience-clause protection. A 30-day period of public comment on the rescission ended April 9.

She predicted they will be rescinded by the Obama administration, but said the repeal would have little or no legal effect because conscience protection will still be granted under existing statutes.

Nonetheless, Stabile said the efforts to repeal the regulations reveal that some conscience protections are vulnerable to efforts to weaken them by national advocacy campaigns, state governments and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Forced confrontation

She traced federal health care conscience-protection statutes to the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which she said forced confrontation of the issue by effectively legalizing abortion.

Federal legislation passed between 1973 and 2004 protects individuals and institutions from being discriminated against for refusing to participate in actions they find morally objectionable, including abortion.

Most states also have conscience-protection laws, she said.

"Existing conscience laws have come under increasing attack by, among others, abortion-rights activists, who want to require all health care personnel and hospitals to provide 'the full range of reproductive services,' including abortion," she said.

"Signs of erosion started to be seen about 10 years ago and have continued at the state level," she said.

In addition, she said, "mainstream medical journals are rife with articles and editorials that show hostility to health care providers who refuse to participate in abortion and other morally objectionable procedures."

Stabile distinguished between Catholic and secular providers of health care and other social services.

"For the Catholic Church, running hospitals, nursing homes, schools and other social services is not a secular activity and cannot be completely separated from its core religious mission," she said.

"The activity is part of living out the healing mission of Christ and is rooted in a commitment to promote and defend human dignity and promote the common good," said Stabile.

She said, "When a Catholic organization cares for the sick and elderly or provides for education, it is performing an act as religious as those that take place inside of the church itself. We know that means that when Catholic entities provide social services they must do so in a way that is consonant with its religious principles."

Intersecting reality

Stabile said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2001 "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" outline the church's moral teaching on issues Catholic health care providers may face.

They forbid abortions and all other procedures that contradict church teaching.

Stabile described an "intersecting reality" between the Catholic and the secular approach to health care.

She said abortion, emergency contraception, sterilization and physician-assisted suicide are among "certain medical procedures and practices that have come to be viewed by a not insignificant number of people in this country as part of basic health care and by others as ... at least acceptable options for people to choose."

She said the procedures are inconsistent with Catholic principles and the bishops' ethical directives.

Stabile said conscience analysis is complicated in a pluralistic society.

"We don't all share a set of common assumptions about what is right and what is wrong. That raises a question as to what personal moral decisions we ought to protect," she said.

"We can't really argue in a pluralistic society with separation of church and state that the government should respect only those claims resulting from a well-formed Catholic conscience," she said.

She added the American belief in the right of self-determination forms the basis of much of the nation's social policy.

"We also live in a society where we move from negative rights — that is, a right to be free from interference — to positive rights — that is, entitlements

Moral measures

Health reform urgent but abortion must be off the table, bishop says

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Although there is an urgent need for "comprehensive health care reform leading to accessible and affordable health care for all," Congress must not include abortion as part of a national health care benefits package, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee said.

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who chairs the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, outlined the bishops' criteria for health care reform in a brief statement to the Senate Finance Committee May 20. The next day, the USCCB sent letters with the same message to the House, Senate and White House.

Calling health care a "critical component" of the ministry of the Catholic Church, Bishop Murphy said the church brings "strong convictions and everyday experience" to the issue.

"The church provides health care, purchases health care and picks up the pieces of a failing health care system," he said. "The Catholic community encounters and serves the sick and uninsured in our emergency rooms, shelters and on the doorsteps of our parishes. One out of six patients is cared for in Catholic hospitals."

But he said the current federal policy of not compelling Americans to pay for abortions with their tax dollars must remain in place under any health reform plan.

He also expressed the bishops' opposition to "the inclusion of other procedures or technologies that attack or undermine the sanctity and dignity of life."

"No health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for or participate in the destruction of human life," Bishop Murphy said. "To preserve this principle is morally right and politically wise as well. No health care legislation that compels Americans to pay for or participate in abortion will find sufficient votes to pass."

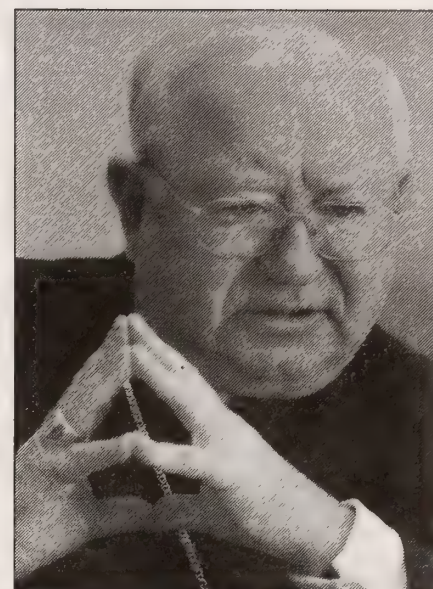
He called health care "a basic human right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person."

"All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and this should not depend on their stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, or where they live or where they come from," he said.

Bishop Murphy offered four "basic assumptions" and eight key criteria for judging any health reform plan.

— very easily," she explained.

"We blur the line between permitting something and deciding that thing is an affirmative good that should be promoted," she continued. "That the law permits something does not mean



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., listens to a question from a Catholic News Service reporter during an interview in Washington March 24. Bishop Murphy, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said Congress must not include abortion as part of a national health care benefits package.

"The basic assumptions we offer are these: 1) a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity; 2) access for all with a special concern for the poor; 3) pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism, including freedom of conscience and variety of options; and 4) restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers," he said.

The criteria he named were: respect for life, priority concern for the poor, access for all, comprehensive benefits, pluralism, quality, cost controls and equitable financing.

He said pluralism would be judged on "whether (the reform plan) allows and encourages the involvement of the public and private sectors, including the voluntary, religious and nonprofit sectors, in the delivery of care and services" and "whether it ensures respect for religious and ethical values in the delivery of health care, for patients and for individual and institutional providers."

"The moral measure of any health care reform proposal is whether it offers affordable and accessible health care to all, beginning with those most in need," Bishop Murphy said. "This can be a matter of life or death, or dignity or deprivation."

The House and Senate are drawing up separate plans for health care reform; key leaders have said they hope to complete work on health reform legislation by the summer recess in August.

it is right or moral or that we must facilitate it.

"We need to distinguish a zone of interference from things to which one has a legal entitlement. But we don't do that very well," she said.

'The ultimate pro-life expression'

Volunteers promote international adoptions of Down syndrome babies

BY PAUL SANCHEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WESTERLY, R.I. — A Maryland-based organization is working against the trend of aborting Down syndrome babies by placing those children from around the globe with loving families in the United States.

Reece's Rainbow assists couples in adopting Down syndrome children from other countries.

Founded in June 2006, Reece's Rainbow has already found families for more than 175 children with Down syndrome from 32 countries around the world, including Armenia, Haiti, Mexico, Ghana, Russia, Liberia, Vietnam and Korea.

An entirely volunteer organization, Reece's Rainbow prides itself on the fact that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to the child, family or fund designated by the donor.

For decades doctors have recommended an amniocentesis test for pregnant women 35 and older because their age dictates a greater risk for chromosomal defects. Because the test carries a slight chance of miscarriage, it has not been routinely offered to younger women, who end up giving birth to the majority of Down syndrome babies.

But a 2007 recommendation from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists encouraged doctors to offer a new screening procedure to all pregnant women, regardless of age. A sonogram and two blood tests in the first trimester now can detect the extra 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.

An estimated 90 percent of all prenatal detections of Down syndrome are said to end in abortion.

Reece's Rainbow is not an adoption agency, but a nonprofit, volunteer organization that serves as a connecting point for Down syndrome children and potential adoptive families. It focuses on saving the lives of children who might otherwise face life, or death, in mental institutions abroad.

The organization also works to help birth families who choose to keep their children, and helps them begin their own Down syndrome associations that fight for the rights and inclusion of special-needs children in their own countries.

Reece's Rainbow was founded by Andrea Roberts, who has a Down syndrome child named Reece who has changed her life.

"Yes, my son is the catalyst for Reece's Rainbow. But I lean on my belief that God has a specific purpose for everyone, and this is his calling for me through Reece," Roberts said. "Not everyone gets such an obvious call. I spent many years drifting through life, with no idea where I was headed. I love to help others and my love for Reece fuels my passion to defend and protect

others like him."

Shelley Bedford and her husband have adopted two boys from two different countries through Reece's Rainbow. Their son, Xander, adopted from Ukraine in August 2007, has Down syndrome and bilateral clubbed feet. He has had major foot reconstruction surgery and is learning to walk at age 5.

Their other son, Grifyn, also 5, was adopted from Serbia in April 2008. Grifyn was the first child with Down syndrome to ever be adopted in Serbia. Bedford now volunteers with Reece's Rainbow to assist other families who are adopting from Serbia.

The Bedfords live in Alabama where Shelley's husband is in the U.S. Army.

"The most rewarding part is seeing the families meeting their new children," Bedford said. "It is amazing to watch the journeys that families go through and how God pulls it all together. It is an honor to be a small part of helping unite children with their forever families."

Bedford said people were surprised when she and her husband announced they were adopting a Down syndrome child.

"No one understood why and they really didn't understand what to expect," she said. "Now they see our children and they realize that they are just normal kids, with personalities, likes and dislikes like everyone else. Our boys are loved and accepted by all of our family and friends."

Roberts said she opposes abortion, as do many people active with Reece's Rainbow. However, Reece's Rainbow primary focus is to assist with adoptions and foster understanding and acceptance through example.

"Our group is open to anyone with a love for children and people with Down syndrome. Discussions about such controversial things are discouraged because we want to keep the focus on the life-saving efforts of the ministry," she said.

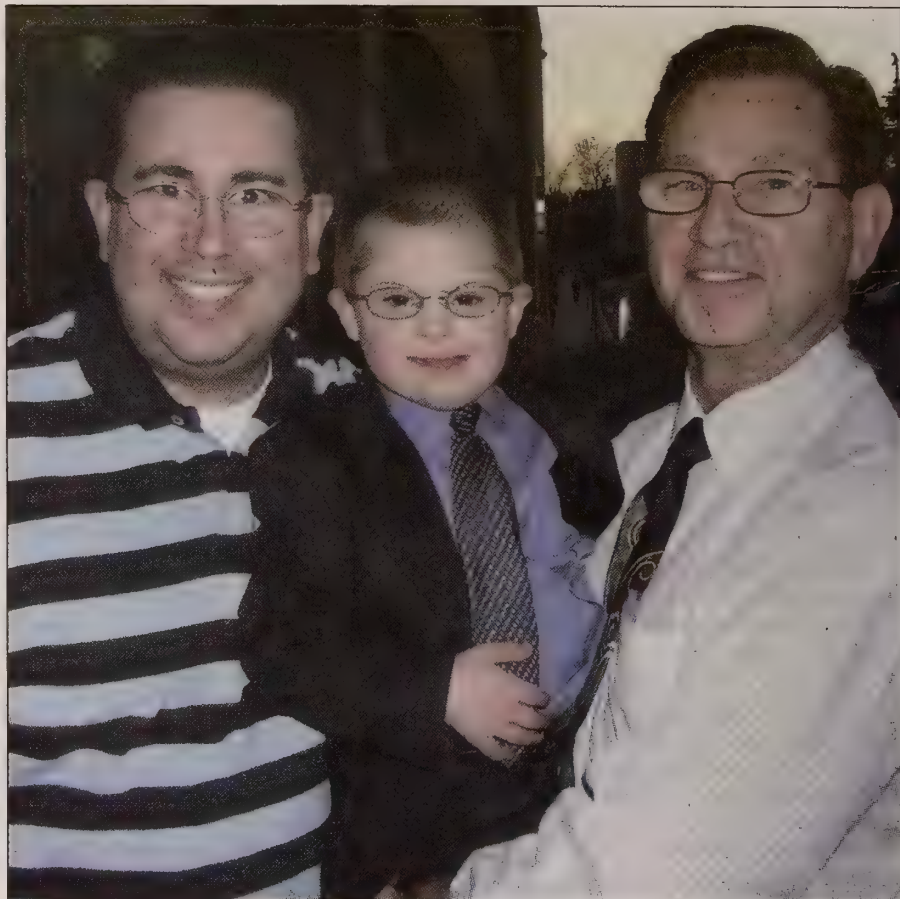
Maureen Mulready, a Catholic from Liverpool, England, who has lived in the United States for nearly 20 years, said she thinks Reece's Rainbow represents the ultimate pro-life expression and applauded the rescuing of Down syndrome babies from lives in institutions where they would likely be mistreated.

"If society does not show compassion for its most vulnerable members, then it is doomed for worse things," Mulready said.

"In my opinion, the fact that Reece's Rainbow is helping to secure all of these adoptions of Down syndrome kids conveys to others that these children deserve the right to live just like other children," she said. "They are spreading a pro-life message of compassion and acceptance."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Reece's Rainbow, visit www.reecesrainbow.org.

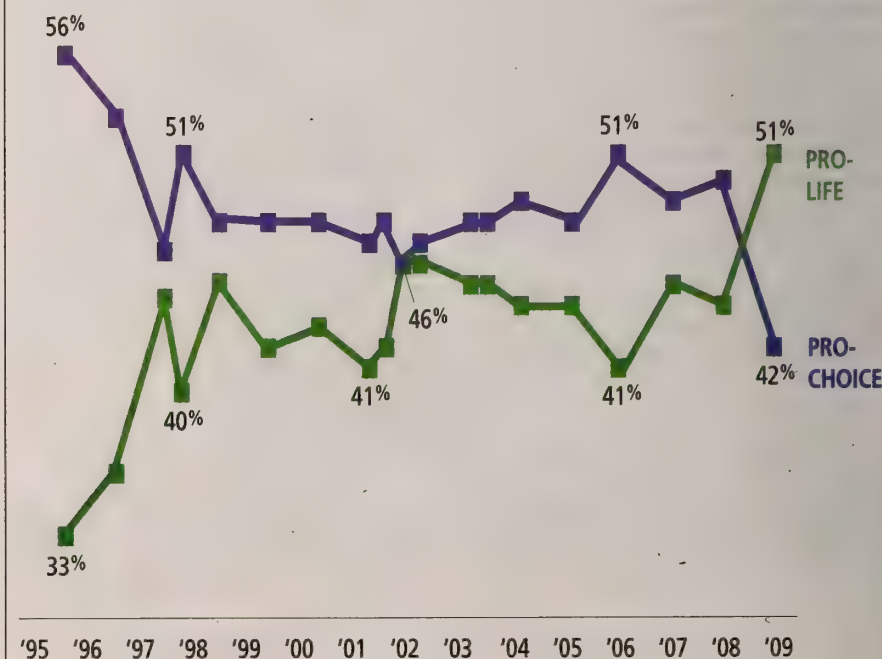


CNS PHOTO COURTESY REECE'S RAINBOW

Reece Roberts, 7, who has Down syndrome, poses with his father, Rich Roberts, and grandfather Dick Roberts in an undated photo. Reece's mother, Andrea Roberts, started a Maryland-based organization called Reece's Rainbow, which assists couples in adopting children with Down syndrome from other countries.

MORE AMERICANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES "PRO-LIFE" than "pro-choice" for the first time since Gallup began asking this question:

With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?



Source: Gallup Poll

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

Ministry reaches out to families of babies with Down syndrome

DOWN, from page 1

perinatal hospice for mothers who carry their babies to term despite receiving a poor prenatal diagnosis.

"Perinatal hospice provides a great service for many moms," said Tracy Winsor, a parishioner at St. Peter Church in Charlotte and regional perinatal bereavement coordinator.

But, she said, the problem is that "Down syndrome parents never get referred."

This new service "is part of our effort to support moms who are carrying to term," said Winsor. "We want to have a very specific service dedicated to Down syndrome because that population is largely underserved."

According to Winsor, the abortion rate for parents who are informed their unborn children have Down syndrome is 90 percent.

She attributes the high termination rate to a lack of information and understanding of Down syndrome within the medical community.

"As an issue of public health, we need to do a better job of providing information and supporting parents who receive these diagnoses," said Winsor.

There are other options, "even if a family feels that they can't raise a child with Down syndrome," she said.

One of the things most people don't realize is that "there are actually waiting lists associated with families who want to adopt a child with Down syndrome," said Winsor.

Winsor recently held a training session for peer ministers or counselors who will work specifically with Down

"I want to let them know the future is still bright."

— Kristin Pettler

syndrome cases.

Kristin Pettler, a parishioner at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and mother of three children, attended the training. Pettler's 3-year-old daughter Kaitlin has Down syndrome.

"It hurts my heart when I find out that other parents don't fully understand what they are doing," said Pettler of her reason for getting involved.

As a mother of a child with Down syndrome, Pettler wants to be able to help other families by sharing her experience.

"I want to let them know the future is still bright," she said.

The biggest challenge the group faces now is getting the word out about its ministry.

"We know that these women exist in the community," said Winsor.

The problem is getting referrals from the medical community.

"Doctors can unknowingly pressure women," said Pettler, referring to the vulnerable state of most women at the time of their diagnosis.

"At that point they don't understand the full ramifications and they are pressured to make a decision within 24



COURTESY PHOTO

Kristin Pettler and her 3-year-old daughter Kaitlin, who has Down syndrome, play at Sardis Park in Matthews May 19. Pettler has been trained as an Elizabeth Ministry peer minister so she can assist parents of unborn babies who are diagnosed with Down syndrome.

to 48 hours," she said.

As far as the negative connotation that comes with receiving a diagnosis of Down syndrome, Pettler said she thinks it is the "fear of the unknown."

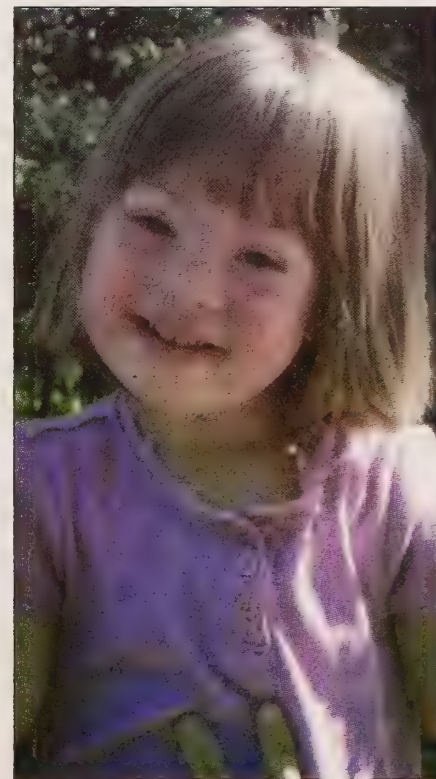
"There is such pressure for everything to be perfect in our society," she said, but "when you stop and think about it we never know the future because it's always in God's hands."

"As a community of faith and society, we have to struggle with making certain that we are extremely welcoming and supportive of these families," said Winsor referring to the ultimate goal of Elizabeth Ministry.

Pettler hopes to do her part.

"We are all different," she said. When it comes to children with Down syndrome, she said "the difference is just a little bit more obvious on the outside."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

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WANT MORE INFO?

Three churches in the Diocese of Charlotte currently have Elizabeth Ministry support groups — St. Mark Church in Huntersville, St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

For more information about Elizabeth Ministry, go online to www.elizabethministry.com.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Book chronicles JFK's 1960 struggle to become first Catholic president

REVIEWED BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The United States broke ground in 2008 as Barack Obama was elected the first African-American president, with race being virtually a nonexistent issue after his nomination by the Democrats.

Almost 50 years earlier, though, prejudice was a major issue when another breakthrough was logged: the 1960 election of Democrat John Fitzgerald Kennedy as the first Catholic president.

Kennedy's Catholicism became an issue that punctuated the campaign with highly pejorative exclamation points.

A well-organized and well-financed campaign by some Protestant groups acrimoniously questioned whether his very religion disqualified him from high office. In rhetoric often crossing the line into religious bigotry, they said that the Catholic Church wanted to erase the separation of church and state and that Kennedy would be obliged to follow the orders of the pope and the U.S. hierarchy once elected.

How Kennedy fought this and eked out a narrow victory over the Republican nominee, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, is the focus of "The Making of a Catholic President" by Shaun A. Casey, an Obama campaign religious affairs adviser and associate professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington.

The book also is a timely reminder that, even in a country where religious freedom is a constitutional right and no religious test for office exists, religion can be manipulated for political purposes.

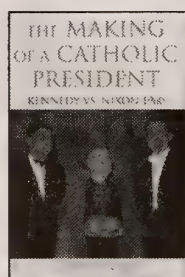
It gives historical perspective on the use of religion and moral codes as a political weapon, especially to people trying to understand the rise of the religious right in the United States.

Today, the religious right cuts across denominational lines, united by an ideology joining broad swatches of evangelical Christians and conservative Catholics. In 1960, the dividing line was strictly denominational.

Casey, with meticulous detail, chronicles the public debate over Catholicism and the behind-the-scenes jockeying by Kennedy and Nixon. Nixon did not publicly raise Kennedy's Catholicism but privately funded Protestant groups airing the view that Kennedy's Catholicism disqualified him from the presidency.

Kennedy knew of Nixon's behind-the-scenes support but said nothing publicly, fearing it would be counterproductive and only magnify the religion issue.

Kennedy tried a variety of parries. At



first, he did not raise the issue, discussing it publicly only if asked.

He emphasized his public record of 14 years in Congress as a representative and senator, saying this showed he had not bowed to the Catholic hierarchy and noting that his oaths of office to Congress were similar to the one he would take as president to defend the Constitution.

Finally, Kennedy did some hair-splitting, saying that as a Catholic he was subject to the hierarchy on issues of faith and morals, but not on public policy. He even said he would resign the presidency if his official actions would come into conflict with his conscience.

The specific policy issues drawing 1960 Protestant ire included fear that Kennedy would establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican, support federal funding of Catholic schools and oppose artificial birth control information in U.S. foreign aid programs.

They seem rather insipid when compared to today's incendiary moral-political issues of abortion, embryonic stem cell research and same-sex marriage.

Anti-Kennedy forces also raised the issue of "mental reservation," a Catholic teaching that says a person can morally lie if it serves a greater good such as to save lives. They said that by using "mental reservation" Kennedy could oppose a pro-Catholic agenda as a candidate but do the opposite once in office.

One wonders if with this argument anti-Catholic bigotry did not cross the line into self-parody. By 1960 there was already a long history of politicians, regardless of their religion, saying one thing to get elected and then doing another to stay in office.

Catholic politicians, at least, had a name for this.

Bono, a retired Catholic News Service staff writer and a former Rome bureau chief, was a freshman at Marquette University in Milwaukee during the 1960 presidential campaign.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 7, 2009

June 7, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22
- 2) Romans 8:14-17
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Doubt can be overcome by disciples

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"I doubt it." "I've had my doubts about her." Common enough expressions, used casually to convey moderate skepticism about the truth of a statement or a person's character.

But what about the kind of deep-seated doubt that supplants one's faith in Christ? Can a doubter be a disciple?

If the readings today are any indication, doubt has been on the flip side of faith for quite a long time.

Indeed, in the first reading Moses is compelled to use all his powers of persuasion and Israel's own history to assure the people that the God of the entire universe has chosen them to be his special people, and that worship of the one true God — not the practice of idolatry — is their only proper response.

In similar fashion, St. Paul must

convince the Christian community in Rome that they are no longer fearful slaves but adopted children of God and heirs with Christ. However, persuasive arguments aren't always enough to dispel doubt and restore faith.

Today's Gospel shows that even seeing isn't necessarily believing. The same 11 disciples who had been closest to Jesus experienced doubts that overshadowed their worship of the risen Christ, even as he appeared to them.

Obviously, when we wrestle with our own uncertainties about God's love and provision, or when we deeply question God's purpose for our lives, we stand in solidarity with some pretty distinguished doubters.

A closer look at today's readings tells us that faith does not come by simply pretending that doubt — that most human of emotions — doesn't exist.

On this particular solemnity of the church's year, we are reminded that the Spirit given to us by the Father of the risen Lord accompanies us always, propelling us beyond doubt and fear so that not only can we "be" disciples, we can "make" disciples of others.

Questions:

With what doubts or fears have you wrestled lately?

How can you better cooperate with the Holy Spirit to overcome doubt and walk as God's adopted son or daughter?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 31 – JUNE 6

Sunday (Pentecost), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday (St. Justin)**, Tobit 1:3; 2:1-8, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Marcellinus and St. Peter)**, Tobit 2:9-14, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)**, Tobit 3:1-11, 16-17, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday**, Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1, 9-17; 8:4-9, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (St. Boniface)**, Tobit 11:5-17, Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday (St. Norbert)**, Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20, Tobit 13:2, 6-8, Mark 12:38-44.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7 - 13

Sunday (The Most Holy Trinity), Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20; **Monday**, 2 Corinthians 1:1-7, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Ephrem)**, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday**, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (St. Barnabas)**, Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday**, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday (St. Anthony of Padua)**, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Matthew 5:33-37.

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Vatican launches iPhone, Facebook applications for communications day

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is launching iPhone and Facebook applications in an effort to help Catholics, especially younger generations, use new technologies to create a culture of dialogue, respect and friendship.

The new applications are part of a brand new Vatican Web site — www.pope2you.net — that went live on World Communications Day, which was celebrated May 24 in most dioceses.

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the new site was created to help attract young people to and spread Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Communications Day, the head of the council, Archbishop Claudio Celli, told reporters May 18.

This year's communications day message is dedicated to "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

"We thought that it was good to present the message to the young generation through technologies that they know how to use," the archbishop said during a press conference unveiling the new site.

"The pope is inviting us to promote a culture of dialogue, of respect and friendship," especially among young people, he said.

"We think this pontifical council itself has to use new technologies to promote new relationships around the world," he said, adding that "we must take advantage of what the new technologies are offering us at this very moment."

Pope Benedict XVI, meanwhile, urged everyone, especially young people, to use the new media "in a positive way and to realize the great potential of these means to build up bonds of friendship and solidarity that can contribute to a better world."

During his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square May 20, the pope said new communications technology has brought about a fundamental shift in how

information is spread and how people communicate and relate to one another.

He asked all those "who access cyberspace to be careful to maintain and promote a culture of respect, dialogue and authentic friendship where the values of truth, harmony and understanding can flourish."

He also called on young people to "bear witness to your faith through the digital world."

"Employ these new technologies to make the Gospel known, so that the good news of God's infinite love for all people will resound in new ways across our increasingly technological world," he said.

Archbishop Celli said the pope's World Communications Day message inspired the council to create a simple, fresh site to work as a hub from which users can find new ways the universal church is present in the digital world.

The site offers viewers a link to a new application on the social networking site Facebook.

Titled "The Pope Meets You on Facebook," the new Pope2You application lets people send and receive "virtual postcards" of Pope Benedict along with inspiring text culled from the pope's various speeches and messages.

Archbishop Celli said there are about 20 different postcards to choose from but that they hope to offer more selections later so that people can "spread around the messages and insights from the Gospel."

The Pope2You site also links viewers to a new way for people to receive news about the Vatican and the pope through their iPhones or iPod touch portable music players.

In conjunction with the Vatican Television Center and Vatican Radio, H2Onews will distribute audio and video reports exclusively through the iPhone in eight different languages, including Chinese.

It is "the first application of video news dedicated to the Catholic world, through which you can follow the travels and speeches of Benedict XVI" as well



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

An image of Pope Benedict XVI is seen on a new Vatican Web site as displayed on an Apple iPod touch in Rome May 22. The new Web site www.pope2you.net features iPhone and Facebook applications aimed at reaching younger generations.

as major Vatican events, the Pope2You site says.

The news clips of the pope and the Vatican will be the same ones currently offered on the Vatican's video channel on YouTube, unveiled in January.

The main Pope2You site also offers a direct link to the Vatican's channel on YouTube and a Wiki link that lets readers study the pope's 2009 communications message.

There is also a five-minute video presentation of Archbishop Celli explaining the new site and its purpose.

The archbishop said even though the new site was meant just to mark the occasion of World Communications

Day, Vatican officials are waiting for user feedback to see whether the site will become permanent.

"Right now we don't have a program or idea for the future (of the site), but if young people respond positively to the initiative then we'll see what to do in the future," he said.

The site and its applications were developed by Italian Father Paolo Padrini, a diocesan priest from Tortona.

He also helped develop the iBreviary application for the iPhone and the Catholic Facebook application called Praybook, which allows users to access and share with others traditional Catholic prayers and texts from the Liturgy of the Hours.

In Internet age, church cannot avoid debate, Vatican spokesman says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent Vatican communications controversies have shown that in the Internet age the church cannot avoid debate and in fact must be prepared to explain its teachings more convincingly through new media, the Vatican's spokesman said.

"In a world such as ours, we would be deluding ourselves if we thought that communication can always be carefully controlled, or that it can always be conducted smoothly and as a matter of course," the spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said in a lecture May 18 at the Westminster seminary in London.

Father Lombardi said that, like any great institution today, the Catholic Church is going to come in for frequent criticism. Thanks in large part to the Internet, the "chorus of voices" that takes part in such debates is larger and more diverse, he said.

The church's strategy should be to enunciate its positions, evaluate criticism, and then give a clearer and more penetrating response, he said.

"It is a mistake to think that we ought to avoid debate. We must always seek to conduct debate in a way that

leads to a better understanding of the church's position — and we must never get discouraged," he said.

Father Lombardi said it's inevitable that the church's message will sometimes be misunderstood, distorted or rejected by an increasingly secular world.

"We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that a perfect communications strategy could ever make it possible for us to communicate every message the church has to offer in a way that avoids contradiction and conflict," he said.

Father Lombardi said the Internet and other new media tools have risks and "enormous potential for manipulation and moral corruption." But he said the church cannot ignore the great potential of online media if it wants to "keep the truths of the faith in close touch with the emerging culture and the younger, growing generations."

The Vatican spokesman said the task of Catholic communicators is to keep working harder to develop and use new media to communicate the Gospel and promote a culture of dialogue. If successful, he said, the church can one day say that "the Internet is truly blessed."

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Students, parishioners share prayer, faith

SPONSORS, from page 1

from Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

"We are able to instill a sense of community of saints, a commitment between the school and the parish and between the generations," said Ashbrook, who teaches religion and Spanish.

In an effort to teach beyond the classroom environment, Ashbrook instructs her students to take faith a step further in a greater appreciation for life based in Catholic community.

As eighth-graders begin their final year at Immaculata School, they are paired with adult parishioners who stay in touch throughout the school year through letters, cards and daily prayers for their students.

For some of the students, the sponsors are people they see regularly during the school day, unaware they have a special bond through prayer with them. For another student, the sponsor was the woman sitting behind her at Mass on Sunday; for others, they are unknown faces among the parishioners.

"I have done this every year since Maria began the program," said sponsor Diane Salkewicz. "There is a spiritual bond for life when you are connected and praying for the needs of someone."

"There is a positive presence in your life," said Erin Brooks, Salkewicz's special student. "It's fun to get letters and nice to be prayed for."

For the first time this year, Salkewicz's daughter Jennifer was a sponsor to eighth-grader Courtney Altman.

"Eighth grade was a challenging year for me," said Jennifer Salkewicz of her motivation for joining the project. "It would have helped then to know someone was praying for me. I will look forward to doing this again."

Courtney Altman's grandmother, Mary Wall Tucker, agrees the program is a benefit for the students.

"This has given her a sense of validation and a good connection to spiritual life. She's aware now that God's right there for her," said Tucker.

A Mass and luncheon were held for program participants May 20. As they found their names on the tables, conversations began — strengthening the bonds that had been developing throughout the school year through cards, letters and heartfelt spiritual journeys that took both students and sponsors to deeper connection with their Catholic faith.

"You feel like there is someone to talk to about spiritual things," said student Mia Maj of her sponsor, Gail Whitney. "We've become friends because we had each other in prayers."



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Students of Immaculata School in Hendersonville and their spiritual sponsors from Immaculate Conception Church participate in a luncheon May 20.

FULLTIME DIRECTOR OF RETREATS – HIGH SCHOOL

Cardinal Gibbons High School, a college preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, seeks a fulltime Director of Retreats (DOR). Responsibilities include planning and administration of current overnight, off-campus retreat programs for current freshman, sophomore and junior classes. This includes interfacing with various faculty retreat coordinators and training of the student peer leaders. Additional responsibilities include the establishment and administration of a "Kairos" program for the senior class.

Candidates must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and the ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Religious Studies or its equivalent, have experience in high school/parish retreat, youth ministry and outreach initiatives. The DOR reports to the Asst. Principal for Spiritual Life. Benefits included; salary commensurate with experience.

Submit resume with references to: Rev. Scott McCue, Asst. Principal for Spiritual Life, smccue@cghsnc.org. Deadline: June 30, 2009. Position begins: August, 2009.

Crowning Mary



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-grader Jacob Brodof watches as classmate Lauren Petterson places a crown on a statue of Mary during the annual May crowning ceremony in the courtyard of St. Mark School in Huntersville May 13. The students went to Mass at St. Mark Church prior to processing to the statue for the ceremony, during which each student presented a flower to the Blessed Mother.

The month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning of Mary and praying the rosary.

Elementary School Principal (K-5th) Opening

Saint Egbert Catholic School in Morehead City, North Carolina, serves the students of Carteret County which is located on the pristine Crystal Coast situated on the south east coast. The Crystal Coast is an 85-mile stretch of beautiful scenery, friendly towns, rich maritime history, and abundant outdoor recreation.

Position: St. Egbert Catholic Church seeks an experienced educational leader to serve as principal for its K-5th grade school beginning the 2009-2010 school year. Saint Egbert Catholic School (enrollment capacity of 150) has provided 53 years of quality Catholic education for Carteret County. The applicant must possess the following qualifications:

Faith: Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

Education: A Master's Degree in School Administration or equivalent and hold, or be able to hold, a North Carolina Administrator's License.

Experience: Notable academic experience and 5 or more years as administrator/principal/assistant principal or equivalent experience.

Qualified applicants are invited to review the complete posting at www.stegbert.org and send a resume, cover letter, curriculum vitae, and list of references to Psearch.stegbert@ec.rr.com or:

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

When ethics spoke to power at Notre Dame

Welcoming Obama may invite reflection, change his conscience

There's a lot to be learned from the commencement controversy at Notre Dame.

When opposition first emerged to the university's decision to invite President Barack Obama to receive an honorary degree and speak at the May 17 graduation, Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, former Notre Dame president, said in an interview with the student newspaper:

"No speaker who has ever come to Notre Dame has changed the university. We know who we are. But, quite often, the very fact of being here has changed the speaker."

Obama had to be affected by his visit to Notre Dame. It remains to be seen to what extent the national debate about abortion will change. It will take years to tell.

To its credit, Notre Dame has raised the debate to a higher level. Ethics and power met on that commencement platform; power now has a heightened awareness of the Catholic concern for human life issues in the national policy arena.

Perhaps eventually — not right away, but eventually — Obama may find himself reflecting, as his predecessor Lyndon B. Johnson did in his 1971 memoirs: "Nothing makes a man come to grips more directly with his conscience than the presidency. Sitting in that chair involves making decisions that draw out a man's fundamental commitments. The burden of his responsibility literally opens up his soul."

"No longer can he accept matters as given. No longer can he write off hopes and needs as impossible. In that house of decision, the White House, a man becomes his commitments. He understands who he really is. He learns what he genuinely wants to be."

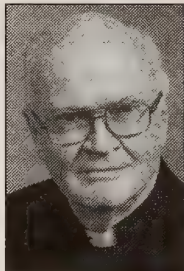
Obama took something more than a doctoral hood and diploma back to the White House when he returned from Notre Dame.

He now has the memory of a warm and enthusiastic welcome from thousands of new friends who respectfully disagree — and said so publicly — with his policy positions on abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

He will not forget the wise words of Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, the current university president, who, while honoring him, reminded him that "easing the hateful divisions between human beings is the supreme challenge of this age. If we can solve this problem, we

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



have a chance to come together and solve all others."

American Catholics on all sides of the policy debates concerning human life can learn from the Notre Dame commencement experience. Curiously, it is a lesson taught years ago by a non-Christian who had an enormous impact on human history: Mahatma Gandhi.

A lawyer by training, Gandhi once said he learned "to find out the better side of human nature and to enter men's hearts. I realized that the true function of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder."

He resolved, he said, "never to yield to force and never to use force to win a cause." Gandhi led a nonviolent fight for India's freedom against the greatest empire in the world (the British). And he won.

To him, the essence of the principle of nonviolence was that "it must have its root in love. Its object should not be to punish the opponent or to inflict injury upon him. Even while non-cooperating with him, we must make him feel that in us he has a friend and we should try to reach his heart by rendering him humanitarian service wherever possible."

Notre Dame might want to edit that and say, "by offering him an honorary degree."

Examining Obama's Notre Dame speech

Commencement address significant but troubling

The decision of Notre Dame University not only to invite President Obama to give the commencement address, but also to award him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree damages the reputation and contests the integrity of one of the most influential Catholic universities in the United States.

I would encourage you to read the text of Obama's speech given at the graduation ceremony in South Bend, Ind. The speech is certainly significant for a number of reasons.

Graduation speeches typically capture the current state of affairs, including relevant political, cultural, social and even moral considerations. And the speaker usually indicates how academic achievements and skills earned will respond to current crisis.

It also is significant because this speech is directed to a Catholic institution of higher learning that has enjoyed the reputation of tradition and excellence. To be sure, this speech was intended not merely for the community of Notre Dame, but for the entire Catholic community in the United States.

Most disturbing to the well-formed Catholic intellect and conscience is Obama's treatment of the issue of abortion and stem cell research.

He mentioned that "those who speak out against stem cell research may be rooted in admirable conviction about the sacredness of life, but so are the parents of a child with juvenile diabetes who are convinced that their son's or daughter's hardships can be relieved."

He makes no distinction between adult and embryonic stem cell research.

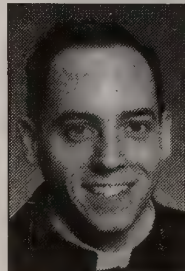
The Catholic Church is clearly in favor of stem cell research. But when this research necessitates the death of a living embryo, which results from embryonic stem cell research, then it is morally illicit.

Obama makes no clear distinctions in order to equalize the debate. He claims that both sides argue from conviction; both sides care about life; both sides make a legitimate case.

Obama then extends this dangerous approach to the issue of abortion. He employs the language of "fair-minded words" and "common ground" to appear

Guest Columnist

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



above the fray, beyond those who engage the argument.

Yet, one wonders whether he would use "fair minded words" to address those who are in favor of rape or whether he would seek "common ground" with those who endorse slavery or support the holocaust of Jews and Christians during World War II.

We cannot concede that the issue of abortion is little more than an irreconcilable debate between two adverse opinions or opposing perspectives without any reference to objective criteria. Those who are in favor of abortion want to retain the legal protection to commit murder, while those who are against it seek legal protection of the innocent human life that exists in the womb.

Interestingly, Obama asks that we "work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions by reducing unintended pregnancies...." He may be referring to abstinence programs.

However, he is likely encouraging the use of contraceptives, which are not only morally evil, but often increase the need for abortion when they fail.

But ultimately, one wonders why he would seek to reduce the number of abortions when he has worked to promote abortion in the United States and around the world.

Either abortion is a good or it is an evil. The pro-abortion position claims that abortion is a good that expresses freedom and independence. Why would Obama work to protect an apparent good and then argue that this good should not be expressed unless he knows that in the end, it is an evil that unleashes devastating consequences?

Sadly, abortion and stem cell research are eclipsed by the challenges of a floundering global economy, environmental protection and other issues that characterize "the City of Man" in the president's speech to the university.

However, the speech is significant because it is addressed to the Catholic community at large. And its disturbing details reveal that we have much work to do to combat what our Holy Father wisely called "the dictatorship of relativism."

I encourage you to read the speech, study our faith, and be ready to defend the truth against those who threaten it.

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Lament for Gollum

Fictional creature a reminder to overcome struggles through Christ

On my desk is a small statue of Gollum, the Hobbit-like character from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings." Those who have read only "The Hobbit," where Gollum was introduced, have seen only an evil, angry little creature.

But those who have read "The Lord of the Rings," or seen its film adaption, witnessed something else. Gollum was a soul in torment, obsessed with wishing to possess a ring of pure evil that slowly and literally destroyed him body and soul.

St. Benedict reminds us to "Deny yourself in order to follow Christ" (Rule of St. Benedict 4:10).

Denying ourselves means an act of will, a deliberate choice to follow the example of our Lord and not to follow our own will. And it also means denying ourselves those things that could corrupt our good intentions.

"For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want" (NRSV; Gal. 5:17).

Poor Gollum. Those who knew him pitied him. Why? Because they recognized the struggle within him and understood that same struggle within themselves.

It is a common struggle; it is within our nature. All through "The Lord of the Rings," the reader witnesses the soul

wrenching struggle within Gollum as he journeyed with the others.

On one side is the obsessive desire for the material (the Ring). On the other is his desire to break away from the influence of the Ring in favor of new friends who understand his struggle.

"Our inner self fights against the outer, and the outer against the inner. For flesh always desires useless and perishable things, the spirit seeks what is useful and always sighs for what is eternal" (Smaragdus of St. Mihiel, p. 173).

When Gollum allowed others to help him, he was able to struggle against the power of the Ring. Frodo, the hero of the story and the "Ring bearer," reached out to Gollum because he recognized and understood his struggle.

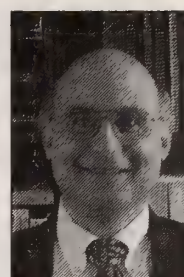
When Gollum chose to reject his friendship and turn his full attention to acquiring the Ring, he failed, eventually giving up his struggle and allowing the influence of the Ring to corrupt him. He turned against friend and ally to possess the Ring — a golden, material object.

Perhaps he was doomed to begin with. He killed his childhood friend to obtain the Ring. His obsession drove him away from family and friends until all he had in the world was the Ring, his "Precious."

This is the result of all addictive behavior; but worse — this is the ultimate result whenever we deliberately

Guest Column

GEORGE COBB
GUEST COLUMNIST



and consistently turn away from a loving God toward the material world, the world of the flesh.

So why do I keep Gollum on my desk? It is a reminder to turn to our Lord in the struggle to be more like him; but also it is a reminder of the importance of friends.

With Jesus helping us along the way, none of us is "doomed to begin with." Gollum reminds me of the importance of seeking out others in my personal struggles against the "rings" in life. If we share our common struggle, we will find we are not quite as alone as we think.

Gollum also is a reminder to me to remember to look for the good in all people and to see the face of Christ in each person I meet. So it is a reminder to always reach out to the Gollums of the world who may be struggling alone, and may ultimately fall, because they have been rejected by the society in which we live.

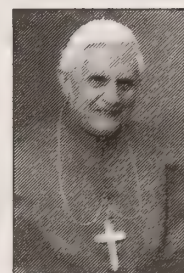
But most importantly, Gollum is a reminder to turn to the one person, the one friend, who understands our own struggles better than any other — our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cobb is planning and research director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pope says simplicity, sobriety, sacrifice aren't just for monks

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The principles of poverty, chastity and sacrifice for the good of the community, which are characteristic of monastic life, are valid for all Christians, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience May 27 in St. Peter's Square, the pope used the example of the Byzantine monk St. Theodore the Studite to explain how the virtues that monks and nuns strive for should be emulated by all in everyday life.

St. Theodore, who was born in 759, emphasized the ideals of "renunciation of private property, freedom from material things, sobriety (and) simplicity," the pope told the crowd of about 14,000 people. "This extreme form is valid for monks, but the spirit is valid for everyone," he said.

The pope also praised St. Theodore's promotion of "philergia," or love of work, as "a way to find God."

St. Theodore's conviction that the monastery's earnings should be shared with the poor was an example that "we can all learn that the fruits of our work should be for the benefit of all," the pope said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today's catechesis on the life and teaching of St. Theodore the Studite places us at the heart of the medieval Byzantine period.

Born in 759 to a noble and pious family, Theodore entered the monastery at the age of 22. He vigorously opposed the iconoclastic movement since, he argued, abolishing images of Christ entails a rejection of his work of redemption.

Theodore also initiated a thorough reform of the disciplinary, administrative and spiritual aspects of monastic life. A particularly important virtue according to Theodore is "philergia" — the love of work — since diligence in material tasks indicates fervor in one's spiritual duties.

He even described work as a type of "liturgy," asserting that the riches mined from it must be used to help the poor.

The Studite's Rule holds particular relevance for us today because it highlights the unity of faith and the need to resist the danger of spiritual individualism.

May we heed Theodore's summons to nurture the unity of the Body of Christ through well-ordered lives and by cultivating harmonious relationships with one another in the Holy Spirit.

Making the movement their own

Encouraging teens shy about pro-life activism

It's a difficult time to be a pro-life Catholic teen. Sometimes, it seems like those in favor of keeping abortion legal are more sensible.

They don't carry around placards with pictures of aborted fetuses (something that keeps one pro-life teen I know from getting involved in activism).

They don't pray loud novenas outside abortion clinics (which makes another girl I know nervous and embarrassed).

They don't say, "If you have any doubts at all, you're not Catholic." (It's normal to doubt when you're a teenager!)

In fact, a girl told me they often seem more tolerant and "with it," which could explain why President Obama was a hit at Notre Dame even though the church opposes his policies.

To a Catholic, though, the abortion debate isn't thorny at all: Abortion is murder. It is wrong. It must be stopped.

But this is a multi-opinioned, polyglot world. Stopping the spread of abortion is going to be a long road, and it's understandable if Catholic teens, faced with the enormity of the task and how often it seems to clash with the way

they live today, shy away from pro-life activism.

Here are some ways teens can make the pro-life movement their own: Cultivate a culture of openness and acceptance within your school and your group of friends. Start talking today. Be an everyday advocate and help your friends make good decisions. They'll listen to you!

Often, pro-lifers will serve as "sidewalk counselors," intercepting women before they go into a clinic and talking to them about abortion. My question is: Why weren't these conversations occurring before someone got pregnant?

Afraid to make speeches? Teens have a lot of economic power, so let your wallet speak for you: Don't spend money on items or services made by companies who support abortion businesses.

Turned off by confrontational language and graphic pictures? There are other ways of showing solidarity.

One is by running supply drives for women's shelters and charities that provide free baby supplies to moms who have chosen to keep their kids. People

Coming of Age

KAREN
OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST



always feel better knowing they're not in a traumatic situation alone.

Don't like prayer vigils or rosary rallies with music and liturgy that don't seem relevant to your experience? Ask a priest or youth minister for help and plan a prayer service that's both Catholic and comfortable for teens.

I page through my high school yearbook now and again, seeing the faces of old friends and people I knew. What's missing, though, are the faces that could have been there but never were — the 50 million victims of abortion in America who never even got a shot at doing the things we take for granted: breathing, dreaming, growing up.

No "deus ex machina" is going to come out of nowhere to change things; no number of bitter words or graduation protests will shift policy overnight.

It's going to take a lot of work, and we need to start changing things now by influencing decisions, saving lives and ensuring bright futures.

It can be done. Now that's sensible!



CNS PHOTO BY EMANUELA DE MEO, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Fans cheer for players from the North American College soccer team (pictured in the foreground) during the Clericus Cup tournament in Rome May 23. The NAC Martyrs, the team fielded by the U.S. bishops' seminary in Rome, finished the season in second place.

Martyrs take the field

U.S. seminarians finish second in Clericus Cup soccer match

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Dreams of glory for the Pontifical North American College soccer team were vanquished with a single corner kick to their goal in the final duel for the Clericus Cup tournament trophy.

The NAC Martyrs, the team fielded by the U.S. bishops' seminary in Rome, finished the season with a respectable second place after going undefeated into the final match May 23 against a team from the Neocatechumenal Way's Redemptoris Mater seminary.

The loss did not discourage the North American College rector, Msgr. James Checchio.

"They're winners," he said after the game. "They're great men; they played hard and they keep improving."

The important thing, he said, "is that they are coming together in unity and a spirit of cooperation, with brothers from other countries."

The Clericus Cup tournament for priests and seminarians studying in Rome was established in 2006 and first played in 2007; it now involves 386 seminarians and religious from 69 countries.

Martyrs' coach and goalie Gannon Jones said the loss was disappointing, "but I'm definitely pleased at our playing this year. This is the only game we lost, and only by one point. Our defense was very good."

The key is "to put your good sportsmanship to Christ," he said, because "winning is everything only if you win God."

Despite the heat and the high stakes for the title of champions, tempers appeared to be kept under control. A jab here and kick there, or a foul, didn't set off the players as they might in a match in a conventional league.

The blue "sin" card, an innovation of Clericus Cup play that signifies a timeout for "reflection" for any player who gets a little overheated, was not employed during the final match.

Hundreds of fans from both seminaries took shelter from the blazing sun under the covered stands on a hilltop soccer field that gave a unique, level view of the dome of the nearby St. Peter's Basilica.

To inaugurate the game, "Red Mat" players and supporters sang "Alma Redemptoris Mater," while Martyrs' fans sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" accompanied by a trumpeter.

Msgr. Checchio estimated that about half of the 208 seminarians at the North American College had come out to cheer on their red and blue team.

An extremely enthusiastic fan club, they stamped their feet, pounded the roof, shouted "NAC, NAC, NAC ..." to the tune of "Barbara Ann" and "Yes, we can! Yes, we can!" or admonished the referee with taunting chants.

Three fans in full Captain America, King Kong and Elvis garb pranced about at halftime.

Bob Mucci, a fourth-year seminarian from Brooklyn, N.Y., said he followed the team from the beginning of the Clericus Cup and said the North American team members "have only gotten better every year. Next year they'll have to win."

The Martyrs had hoped to win the leading scorer title with their Brazilian forward John Kalevski, who went into the game with 11 goals for the season. But he didn't get the chance to surpass Edouard Sinayobye of the College of St. Paul, who finished the season with 12 goals.

Kalevski, who is studying for the Basilian order, wanted to play soccer, and because his house did not field a team he joined the Martyrs.

Center back Victor Ingalls, a first-year student from Montgomery, Ala., said after the game that not winning the cup "is a disappointment, but it's a joy to be able to be in Rome and have all teams with the same goal — the joy in Christ."

Winning is not the point, he said. "We're all here to glorify the Lord."

Games are friendly, he said, because many of the men are friends.

"I know a lot of the players on Red Mat because we were at the Gregorian (a pontifical university) together," he said.

Claudio Starile, one of the referees for the Catholic sporting association that organizes the Clericus Cup, said that officiating at one of this league's games is "like being on holiday" compared to a conventional match.

"There is a big difference in behavior," he said. "Here there is a real desire to play: In other matches there is more of a desire to be aggressive."

Coach Jones said he got his team out twice a week for practice.

Of course, prayer is part of their game plan.

"We pray before and after a game — to not get injured and to enjoy it," Jones said. "We pray to express ourselves, using the gifts that God gave us."

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the faith; happiest moments

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JUNE 5, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 30

To rediscover the grace and goal

*Year for Priests
will show pride in,
love for priests,
cardinal says*

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The 2009-10 Year for Priests will demonstrate that the Catholic Church "is proud of her priests, loves them, honors them (and) admires them," said Cardinal Claudio Hummes, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.

In a letter released in late May, the cardinal said the yearlong celebration, which was proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI and will be inaugurated by him June 19, also will recognize the variety of pastoral work performed by priests and the witness of their lives.

See PRIESTS, page 8

Under Christ's watchful care



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis prays during the consecration of Holy Redeemer Garden at Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte June 1. The garden is the third Catholic section to be opened at an independently-owned cemetery in the diocese in the past 10 months and the first in the city of Charlotte.

*Charlotte cemetery
opens Catholic section*

THIRD OF ITS KIND IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Another option for Catholics preferring traditional burial is now available in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis consecrated Holy Redeemer Garden at Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte June 1.

Members of the Knights of Columbus; Deacon Guy Piche, director of diocesan properties; and parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte gathered for the event.

"The Holy Redeemer Cemetery at Sharon Memorial Park is the fourth Catholic cemetery I have had the privilege of blessing in less than two years," said the bishop in an interview.

See CEMETERY, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Seven Sisters of Mercy celebrating jubilee anniversaries as women religious renew their vows during a Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 30. Pictured are (from left) Mercy Sisters Teresa Susana Dandison, Mary Michel Boulus, Mary Julia Godwin, Mary Agnes Solari, Jeanne-Margaret McNally, Patricia Durbin and Mary Gerard Donovan.

A call to spread love and mercy

*Seven Sisters of Mercy celebrate
anniversaries, years of service*

CHARLOTTE — Seven Sisters of Mercy recently celebrated a collective 385 years of ministry and service as women religious.

The sisters celebrated their jubilees, or anniversaries, at a Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 30. Father James Solari, a retired priest of the diocese, celebrated

the Mass.

Celebrating 60 years as "diamond jubilarians" were Mercy Sisters Mary Michel Boulus, Mary Gerard Donovan, Patricia Durbin, Mary Julia Godwin, Jeanne-Margaret McNally and Mary Agnes Solari.

See JUBILEES, page 9

A rejection of violence

*Pro-life leaders,
groups condemn
murder of abortionist*

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pro-life advocates universally condemned the May 31 murder of a Kansas abortion doctor, with officials from several U.S.

See MURDER, page 7

To purge poverty
CCHD grants given to
local organizations

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Series on women and faith;
inside the Vatican museum

| PAGES 10-11

Multicultural events
Parishes, schools celebrate
cultural diversity

| PAGE 16

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JUN 05 2009 10:00 AM

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

AN UNCERTAIN ERA



CNS PHOTO BY RICK WILKING, REUTERS

The U.S. flag is displayed on a car at the Burt GM auto dealer in Denver June 1. General Motors Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in New York June 1, forcing the 100-year-old automaker, once seen as a symbol of American economic might and dynamism, into a new and uncertain era of government ownership.

Detroit archbishop praying for those affected by GM bankruptcy

DETROIT (CNS) — Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit said he was praying for those affected by the General Motors Corp. bankruptcy.

"The news concerning General Motors adds to the disruption and uncertainty already faced by many of our fellow citizens," Archbishop Vigneron said in a June 1 statement. "All of those impacted by these latest developments are in my prayers."

GM, until recently the world's largest automaker, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection June 1.

Under the terms of the filing, the U.S. government, which has made billions of dollars in loan guarantees to GM since last year, will own 60 percent of the company.

The Canadian government, which has been assisting GM facilities in that country, will own 12 percent, and the UAW will own about 17 percent of the company, while bondholders will own most of the remainder.

But the bankruptcy filing also came with news that GM would close another 16 of its 49 remaining manufacturing and assembly plants.

GM announced earlier this spring that it would discontinue selling the Pontiac, Saturn and Hummer brands. Hummer is being sold to a Chinese industrial firm, and most of GM's European brands have been shed, sold or shielded from bankruptcy.

"I invite the Catholic faithful to join

with me as we implore the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, for her comfort in these times of economic distress," Archbishop Vigneron said in his statement. "And we humbly ask for her intercession with Jesus, her son, to strengthen all of those bearing the burdens of the challenges before us."

The GM bankruptcy came the same day after Chrysler, the United States' third largest automaker, came out of bankruptcy. The Italian automaker Fiat will take most of Chrysler's assets.

Michigan had the nation's highest unemployment rate even before the Detroit automakers started reeling last year from the effects of record-high gas prices and weakening auto sales.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader criticized the bankruptcy plan in a June 2 statement.

"What about the act of closing dealers? Dealers don't cost manufacturers anything. The franchise agreement makes certain of that. So why are we further inconveniencing motorists, rupturing their relationship over the years with dealers that are closer to home and making them travel more and more?" Nader said.

"The answer is, the fewer dealers, the more likely the price of cars goes up. So there are all kinds of reasons why this should go back to Congress for thorough House and Senate hearings, if Congress wanted to adhere to its constitutional duties," he said.

Priest's decision to be an Episcopalian said to harm church relations

MIAMI (CNS) — Archbishop John C. Favalora of Miami expressed disappointment May 28 at both Father Alberto Cutie's decision to join the Episcopal Church and the public way he was received into his new church.

"This truly is a serious setback for ecumenical relations and cooperation" between the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami and the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida, the archbishop said in a statement that also warned Catholics not to request the sacraments from Father Cutie nor attend Masses celebrated by him.

Father Cutie, who was suspended from his parish and Catholic radio posts after photos of him with a woman were released by a tabloid magazine, joined the Episcopal Church May 28 at a ceremony at Miami's Trinity Cathedral.

The woman, identified as Ruhama Buni Canellis, 35, also became an Episcopalian in the same ceremony.

"I have decided to become part of a new spiritual family within the umbrella

of Christianity," he said in a statement.

A statement from the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida said he would pursue becoming a priest in that church but it was not clear how long the process would take.

Archbishop Favalora said neither Father Cutie nor Episcopal Bishop Leo Frade of Southeast Florida had told him that the priest was considering joining the Episcopal Church.

Citing various sections of canon law, the archbishop said Father Cutie had separated himself "from the communion of the Roman Catholic Church by professing erroneous faith and morals and refusing submission to the Holy Father." Any sacraments he performs "would be illicit" and any Mass he celebrates "would be valid but illicit, meaning it does not meet a Catholic's obligation."

The statement also noted that Father Cutie "is still bound by his promise to live a celibate life," from which he can be released only by the pope.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. (no study July 15). The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will host a *Theology on Tap* series at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St., every Monday in June from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. On June 8, Chris Lynch will discuss the topic "Update Your Faith!" and on June 12, Abbott Placid Solari will speak on "Understanding the Church's Message." To RSVP, e-mail rebhay@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held June 14 in the St. Matthew Church Parish

Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up in the church narthex following weekend Masses June 6-7. Participants will need to bring a picture ID. Appointments will be honored, walk-ins will be accepted as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Gabriel in Transition* (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be June 18 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center from 7-9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Tim Hanson, long-time career search skills instructor from CPCC, who will lead the group through a process designed to identify, refine and maximize the value of a personal employment brand. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will celebrate a *mass for U.S. military personnel* July 5 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary (to be prayed at 2:30 p.m.) will be offered for all military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. Military personnel are invited and encouraged to come in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving will be displayed in the cathedral. To include your loved one, mail a color or black-and-white photocopy of them with their name and military rank on the back of the photo to Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 to be received no later than July 1. Photocopies of pictures will not be returned.

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
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JUNE 5, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 30

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican announces papal trip to Czech Republic in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Czech Republic in late September, participating in the nation's Sept. 28 observance of the feast of St. Wenceslaus, a 10th-century Czech prince and martyr.

During the Sept. 26-28 trip, the pope will visit Prague, Brno and Stara Boleslav, the town where St. Wenceslaus was murdered by his brother in 935 to protest his embrace of Christianity, the Vatican announced May 30.

The announcement was published as Pope Benedict was meeting Czech President Vaclav Klaus in the papal library. The pope and president discussed the situation in the Czech Republic, "looking in particular at some questions related to relations with the Catholic Church, as well as to the future of Europe, taking into account the importance of its cultural, spiritual and Christian

patrimony," the Vatican said.

Church-state relations in the Czech Republic have been tense over demands for the restitution of Catholic properties confiscated under communist rule. In March, the Czech Supreme Court confirmed state ownership of Prague's historic St. Vitus Cathedral after a 17-year legal battle by the church.

After his audience with the pope, Klaus told Vatican Radio he was pleasantly surprised by "how the pope follows the situation in our country. Our meeting was not just an exchange of pleasantries, but we spoke in a very concrete way."

"Regarding preparations for the pope's visit, I must say they already are in an advanced phase. We are happy the pope will be visiting us because he will bring a clear message for everyone," Klaus told Vatican Radio.

Pope John Paul's beatification delayed, Italian newspapers say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The beatification of Pope John Paul II may be delayed as the Vatican seeks more documentation regarding his almost 27 years as pope, Italian newspapers reported in late May.

According to the newspaper La Stampa, the chief holdup regards hundreds of letters he wrote before and after his election to Wanda Poltawska, a longtime friend and adviser to the pope.

Meanwhile, the newspaper Il Giornale reported that a commission of theologians meeting in mid-May decided the information contained in the official "positio," or position paper, was not complete enough.

In particular, the newspaper cited the fact that Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of state under Pope John Paul, and Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, his deputy at the time, had not given testimony in the case.

Neither newspaper quoted any of the commission members by name nor included comments from current officials of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office, said June 1 there would be no official comment from the Vatican while the process was under way.

Dominican Father Daniel Ols, the Vatican's chief investigator for Pope John Paul's cause, told the Italian news agency ANSA June 1 that the process was proceeding with the Vatican's normal, cautious pace.

Pope Benedict XVI waived the five-year waiting period for the cause to begin, Father Ols said, "but at the same time, he wants the work to be done well and with maximum accuracy."

La Stampa published an interview with Poltawska June 1 in which she said she met Father Karol Wojtyla, the future pope, in 1950 when she was looking for a confessor and spiritual director to guide her in the long process of recovering from her internment as a political prisoner in the Nazis' Ravensbruck concentration camp, where medical experiments were performed on prisoners.

Along with her husband and often with their children, "we shared interests, important moments, spirituality and that love for nature that we experienced camping in the mountains of southern Poland and even in the golden cage that was (the papal villa at) Castel Gandolfo," after his election as pope in 1978, she said.

"From the first time I met him I knew he would become a saint," Poltawska said. "His holiness was evident; he radiated an interior light that was impossible to hide."

Poltawska said she has a "suitcase full of his letters," written over the course of 55 years.

"I cannot tell you how many I gave to the beatification cause," because she took an oath of secrecy regarding the cause, she said. "I did not destroy any of them. I selected some and decided to publish them in Poland, even though some people did not agree," she said.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — Are you interested in learning about your Irish heritage? The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* welcome all women who are practicing Roman Catholics, and who are Irish by birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the mother of a Junior member. We will be starting a new division in the Denver area. To learn more, contact Janice Donahue at (704) 249-9161 after 7 p.m. weekdays or e-mail ladydonahue@gmail.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Mass in the extraordinary form to celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., June 21 at 4 p.m. A women's and men's schola will be formed for the chants of the Mass. Interested singers should contact Robin Shea at RSHEA@triad.rr.com for the women's schola and Brian Marble at musicdirector@olgchurch.org for the men's schola to arrange rehearsals.

HIGH POINT — To commemorate the 15th anniversary of perpetual eucharistic adoration at Maryfield nursing home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., a special Mass for Corpus Christi will be celebrated in the Maryfield Chapel June 14 at 3 p.m. Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will be the chief celebrant. Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Are you interested in learning about your Irish heritage? The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* welcome all women who are practicing Catholics, Irish by birth or descent, the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians or mother of a junior member. The LAOH will be starting a new division in the Mooresville area. To learn more, call Janice Donahue at

(704) 249-9161 after 7 p.m. weekdays or e-mail ladydonahue@gmail.com.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

HIGHLANDS — Our Lady of the Mountains Church, 315 North 5th St., is one of five Highlands churches participating in weekly *Taize Prayer Services* throughout the summer months. The ecumenical services will be held each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The service will rotate weekly to each of the participating churches. The first service at Our Lady of the Mountains Church will be held June 11; other dates at the church include July 16 and Aug. 20. Everyone is invited to attend the services, which are intended to unite Christians in prayer. For more information, call Ed Boos at (828) 526-3353.

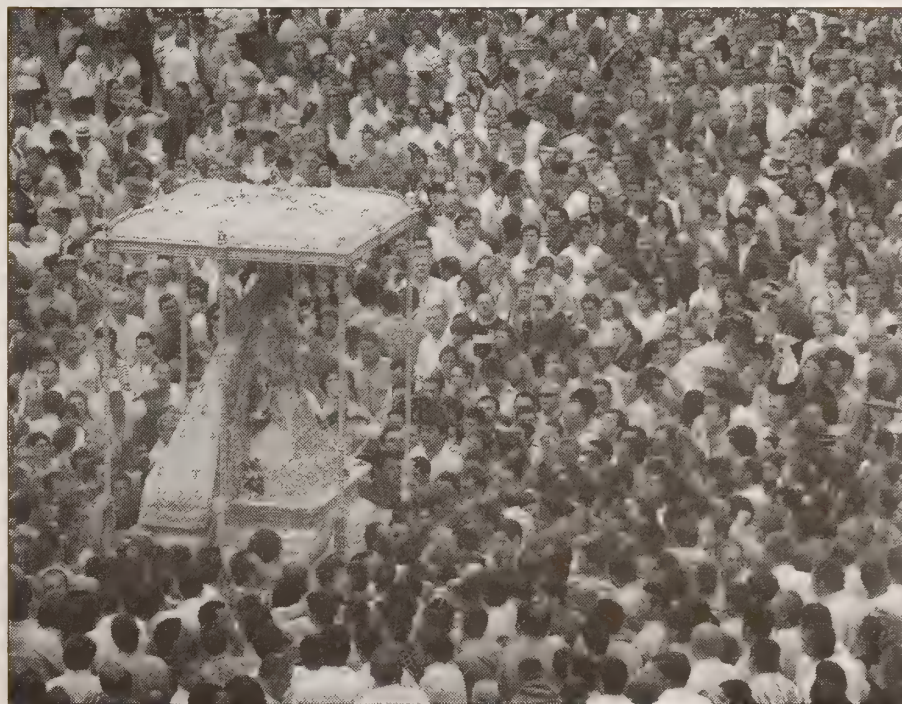
WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Catholic homeschooling families in the Triad gather on Mondays at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for enrichment activities such as hands on science, geography, Latin and art. Registration is now open or fall 2009. Interested families should contact Katie Knickrehm at (336) 996-2643 or katie_knickrehm@yahoo.com, or Liz Ruiz at lizimagination@triad.rr.com. For more information, visit www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com.

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Crowding around Mary



CNS PHOTO BY MARCELO DEL POZO, REUTERS

Pilgrims crowd around the statue of the Virgin of El Rocio during a procession around the shrine of El Rocio in Almonte, in southwestern Spain, June 1. Hundreds of thousands of people participated in the annual pilgrimage, which combines religious fervor and festive color.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 9-11

50th anniversary of priestly ordination of Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah
Savannah, Georgia

June 13 (5 p.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation
St. John de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

June 12 (7 p.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation
St. John the Baptist Church, Waynesville

June 14 (10 a.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation
Christ the King Church, High Point

NOTICE TO READERS

The Catholic News & Herald begins its biweekly printing schedule for June, July and August. The next issue will be June 19.

To purge poverty

CCHD grants awarded to local organizations

SHELBY — Delegations from 10 organizations working with the poor living in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for a grants luncheon at St. Mary Church in Shelby May 21.

The organizations present were 10 of the 11 organizations selected to receive checks from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) for the 2009 funding cycle.

CCHD is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program that supports community groups.

The local grant checks, totaling \$40,334, were distributed by Mary Jane Bruton, CCHD director in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"First and foremost, we thank the Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte for their generosity in the annual November CCHD collection. It is their contributions that make this grant program a reality," said Bruton.

Dioceses throughout the United States conduct an annual CCHD collection in November. Most of the funds are sent to the national CCHD

office to support the organization's national anti-poverty mission, but a small portion of the collection remains in the dioceses to support local grants for grassroots organizations.

Ralph McCloud, national director of CCHD, spoke at the recent luncheon on the topic of "The Challenges of Poverty."

Observing that two of the recipient organizations had the word "neighbor" in their names, McCloud applauded CCHD's community response to the poor and remarked how poverty can best be addressed by neighbors serving and empowering neighbors at the local level.

This year, four grants were awarded to organizations in the western region, two grants in the central region, three grants in the Charlotte-metro area and two grants in the Triad region.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on CCHD or a grants application, go online to www.cssnc.org/cchd_crs.html.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Jane Bruton, diocesan director of CCHD, stands with representatives of Irwin Avenue Middle School and St. Peter Church in Charlotte, one of 11 recipients of CCHD grant checks distributed during a luncheon at St. Mary Church in Shelby May 21. Also pictured are (from left) Judy Fahl, principal of Irwin Avenue Middle School, and Martha Schmitt and Mary Claire Wall, parishioners. St. Peter Church received the grant for its collaborative project with the school in an effort to improve parent involvement and student performance.

Franciscan nun in Raleigh is CCHD diocesan director of year

RALEIGH (CNS) — Franciscan Sister Joan Jurski was named the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's 2009 director of the year.

Sister Jurski has been the CCHD director in the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., since 1991. Also coordinator of the diocese's Office of Peace and Justice, she addresses the social concerns of a diocese that is more rural than urban, with 96 Catholic churches spread over 54 counties.

The annual award honors the daily and "often unsung efforts of the men and women" who serve their

dioceses as local campaign directors, an announcement said.

Sister Jurski received the CCHD award in February during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C.

In her acceptance remarks, she said CCHD, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, is one of the most effective evangelization efforts in the Diocese of Raleigh.

For many people, especially in rural communities, the assistance CCHD provides is often their first encounter with Catholics, she said.

Celebrating Communion



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Frank Seabo, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa, is pictured with 17 children who made their first Communion May 3. This year's Communion class was the largest in the history of the parish, according to Bea Madden, religious education director at the church.

Planning ahead



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Daniel McCaffrey, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and a presenter for Natural Family Planning Outreach, speaks to adult and teenage parishioners of St. Mary Church in Shelby as part of an NFP Weekend Mission May 15-17.

Natural Family Planning Outreach coordinates with local NFP teachers and physicians to provide materials and seminars on natural family planning based on Catholic Church teaching.

Father McCaffrey spoke after all weekend Masses; he also spoke to local physicians May 15 and to more than 120 teenagers and their parents May 16.

For more information on natural family planning or to arrange a weekend mission, contact Batrice Adcock, natural family planning program director with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, at (704) 370-3230 or cssnfp@charlottediocese.org.

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FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses those in attendance at Holy Redeemer Garden at Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte June 1. The garden is the third Catholic section to be opened at an independently-owned cemetery in the diocese in the past 10 months.

Charlotte cemetery opens Catholic section

CEMETERY, from page 1

It is the third Catholic section to be opened at an independently-owned cemetery in the diocese in the past 10 months.

The Garden of St. Matthew at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Matthews opened Aug. 12, 2008 and a Catholic section at Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville was consecrated Dec. 2, 2008. A cemetery at the site of the future Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury was consecrated Sept. 1, 2007.

In 2006, the Diocese of Charlotte implemented a moratorium on constructing and expanding columbaria and conducted a study on the use of columbaria and cemeteries.

"The Holy Redeemer Cemetery fulfills the requirements of our diocesan Policy on Cemeteries, which requires that a resting place for the bodies of the deceased and a resting place for cremated remains be available all at one location," said Bishop Jugis.

"The Holy Redeemer cemetery is a pastorally sensitive approach, offering equal access at one location to all our Catholic parishioners who desire a resting place for either the body or for cremated remains," the bishop said.

Sharon Memorial Park was opened in 1939. The cemetery offers private estates, hedge estates, traditional ground burial and a cremation columbarium.

Holy Redeemer Garden is the newest section in the park and the first Catholic cemetery in the city of Charlotte.

An 8-foot granite crucifix at the center of the Catholic section serves as an identifiably Catholic symbol within the independently-owned cemetery.

"It stands as a reminder of Christ's love for all humanity," said Bishop Jugis.

"St. Paul says that if we have died with Christ, then we shall also live with Christ," the bishop said. "We place our beloved dead at the feet of the crucified Lord, knowing that they continue to live in Christ and that their bodies are safe under his watchful care as they await the resurrection on the last day."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

BURIAL or CREMATION?

•The Order of Christian Funerals — the Vatican-approved rite used for celebrating Catholic funerals — indicates three reasons for the preference of burial of the body of the deceased over the cremation of the body:

- Jesus himself willed to be buried;
- the body at the funeral rite expresses in a natural way the manner people had been accustomed to relating to the person while he or she was living, namely through a human body;
- the body at the funeral rite expresses Jesus' teaching regarding the supernatural dignity and destiny of the human body.

•The Order of Christian Funerals presents cremation as an exception to burial and allows Catholics to be cremated "when extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice."

•In March 2007, the Diocese of Charlotte issued its new policy on cemeteries and columbaria, which states parishes may offer at one location a resting place for both the bodies and the cremated remains of the deceased.

•The policy gives the diocese the option to create Catholic sections in local cemeteries and to receive or purchase land for the establishment of a Catholic cemetery.



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.
Department of Philosophy, Fordham University

will speak in the Diocese of Charlotte

on June 29, July 1 and July 2

*The event topics and locations are presented below.
Please visit www.cssnc.org for event synopses.*

The Catholic Understanding of Human Rights and the Common Good

Monday, June 29, 10:30 am - 12 pm, 1st Floor, Diocesan Pastoral Center
Address: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, 28203 (Visitor parking in adjacent satellite lot)

Monday, June 29, 7 - 8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, St. Francis Hall
Address: 208 Seventh Ave. West, Hendersonville, 28791

St. Paul on Questions of Human Life, Marriage, and Society

Wed., July 1, Parts I & Part II: 10 am - 3 pm, 1st Floor, Diocesan Pastoral Center
Address: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, 28203 (Visitor parking in adjacent satellite lot)

Wed., July 1, Part I: 6:30 - 8:30 pm & Thursday, July 2, Part II: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Our Lady of Mercy Church. Address: 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, 27103



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from St. Louis U. and a M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has received both the Graduate Student Faculty of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Student Faculty of the Year Award from Fordham University.

Sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace and Respect Life Program of Catholic Social Services. Please call 704-370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org if you plan to attend. Lunch will be provided at the June 29 and July 1 daytime events for all who register to attend in advance.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the cemetery and people attending the consecration of Holy Redeemer Garden in Charlotte June 1.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Sister Mary Cecilia Lewis 1917 – 2009

Teacher, musician dies in her 73rd year as Sister of Mercy

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Cecilia Lewis died May 30 at Marian Center in Belmont after an extended illness. She was 92.

A funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, followed by burial in Belmont Abbey cemetery.

She was born Helen Virginia Lewis in Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1917. Upon entering the Sisters of Mercy on June 24, 1935, she took the name Sister Mary Cecilia. She was received into the religious order Feb. 2, 1936 and had been in her 73rd year as a Sister of Mercy.

A gifted teacher and musician, Sister Lewis was an educator for her entire ministerial career, including her years at Sacred Heart Academy in Belmont, where she was principal, and at Sacred Heart College, where she served as chairperson of the music department for more than 30 years.

Sister Lewis also was organist and choir director for her congregation.

She began her teaching career in 1937 and was missioned to Sacred Heart School in Salisbury. In 1939, she was assigned to St. Mary's School in Wilmington.

She also taught at O'Donoghue School in Charlotte before returning to teach at Sacred Heart Academy and Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

Although busy with her teaching schedule, Sister Lewis actively served the community at large where many people knew her as a piano instructor for children and adults.

She was a member of the board of directors of the Gaston Fine Arts Council and the Gastonia Community Concerts Association, as well as secretary of the diocesan Liturgical Commission.

In addition, she was active in the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum, serving as its president, vice president, librarian and board member. In 1984, the forum awarded her a citation of honorary membership for her meritorious service.

In 1971, she added two new ministries. The first consisted of a year of work at Charlotte Ear, Eye, Nose and Throat Hospital; the second was 10 years with Contact Telephone Counseling.

For many years, she served as a pastoral volunteer at Gaston Memorial Hospital and as a hospice volunteer, visiting men and women living with AIDS. She was a member of the board of directors of the House of Mercy, a facility sponsored by her order for men and women with AIDS.

Sister Lewis graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1934 and from Sacred Heart Junior College in 1935 with an associate's degree in liberal arts.

She attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and received her bachelor's degree in liturgical music from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, N.Y.

She then returned to her studies at Catholic University of America, earning a master's degree in music education.



Mercy Sister Mary Cecilia Lewis

During her sabbatical year of 1980-81, Sister Lewis completed a master's degree in spirituality at Mundelin College in Chicago.

While there, she served as a volunteer for Sarah's Circle, a center for homeless women in uptown Chicago.

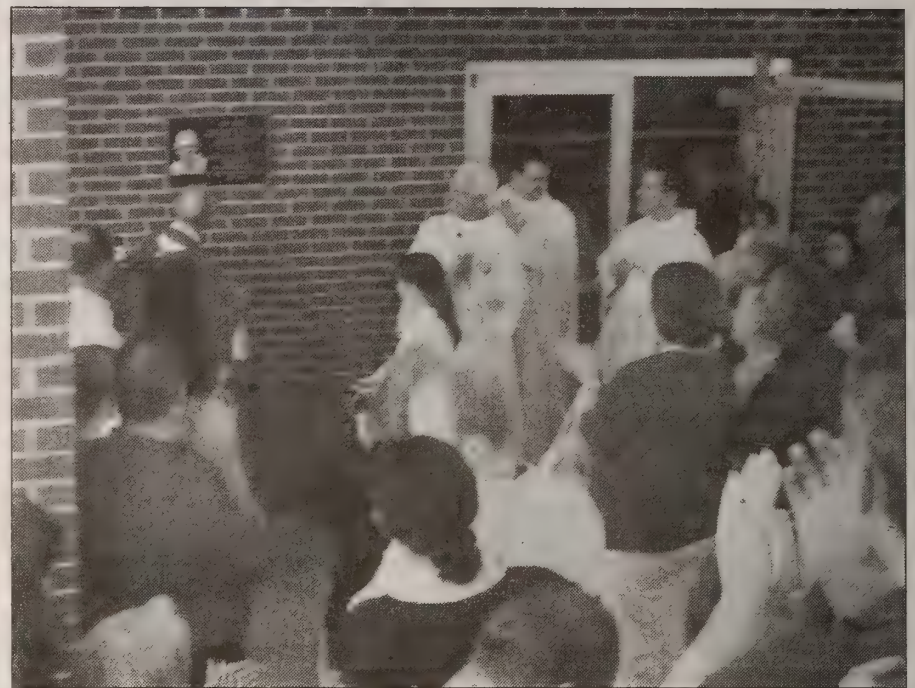
Sister Lewis enrolled in postgraduate study at Wake Forest University, Peabody Conservatory, Appalachian State University and Catholic University of America.

She held certificates of professional advancement from the North Carolina Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association, and memberships in the American Association of University Professors, American Guild of Organists, College Music Society, Charlotte Music Club and North Carolina Music Educators Conference.

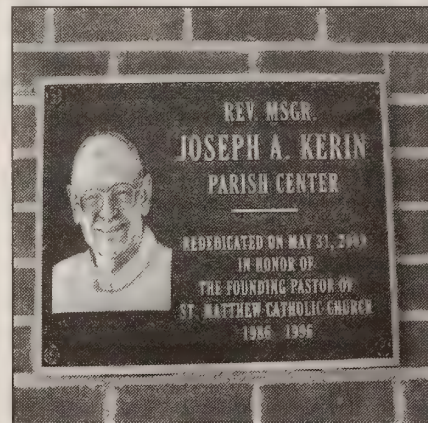
Sister Lewis is survived by the Sisters of Mercy South Central Community and by several cousins.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012-4805; to House of Mercy, 701 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012; or to Gaston Hospice, P.O. Box 3984, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Honoring a past pastor



COURTESY PHOTOS



Msgr. Joseph Kerin (upper left) regards the plaque on the parish hall rededicated in his honor at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte May 31. Watching are Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor; Fathers Patrick Toole and Patrick Cahill, parochial vicars; Deacon James Hamrlik; and members of the parish.

Msgr. Kerin, now retired, served as the first pastor of St. Matthew Church from 1986 to 1996.

"Of the truths that I have realized over time, having celebrated my 52nd anniversary, is that Jesus is always walking with us and when we recognize that, we can live a life of peace — and when you have peace you have joy," said Msgr. Kerin.

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Pro-life activists condemn murder of abortion doctor

MURDER, from page 1

right-to-life groups saying such extreme acts only hurt the pro-life cause.

"As a people of life and for life, violence has no place in our message, which is protection for all from conception until natural death," Maggi Nadol, Respect Life director in the Diocese of Charlotte, said June 3.

"We reject violence inside the abortion centers in ending the life of the unborn and we reject violence outside the abortion centers," she said.

Dr. George Tiller, 67, of Wichita, Kan., was fatally shot while serving as an usher at the city's Reformation Lutheran Church during morning services, according to The Associated Press.

The suspect arrested in the shooting was officially charged June 2 with one count of first-degree murder. Criminal justice officials have accused him of threatening two people at the church and additionally charged him with aggravated assault.

In 1996, a man with the same name was charged in Topeka, Kan., with criminal use of explosives for having bomb components in his car trunk and sentenced to 24 months of probation, the AP reported. However, the conviction was overturned on appeal the next year after a higher court said evidence against him was seized by law enforcement officers during an illegal search of his car, the AP reported.

Tiller — whose clinic is one of just a few in the nation where abortions are performed after the 21st week of pregnancy — had been a target of abortion opponents since the 1970s. He was shot in

both arms by a protester in 1993 and his clinic was bombed in 1985.

Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed profound regret upon learning of Tiller's shooting death.

"Our bishops' conference and all its members have repeatedly and publicly denounced all forms of violence in our society, including abortion as well as the misguided resort to violence by anyone opposed to abortion," Cardinal Rigali said in a June 1 statement.

"Such killing is the opposite of everything we stand for, and everything we want our culture to stand for: respect for the life of each and every human being from its beginning to its natural end. We pray for Dr. Tiller and his family," he said.

"The pro-life movement works to protect the right to life and increase respect for human life," said David O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee. "The unlawful use of violence is directly contrary to that goal."

Members of the president's faith-based advisory council, who are among those working for common ground on abortion, also condemned Tiller's murder.

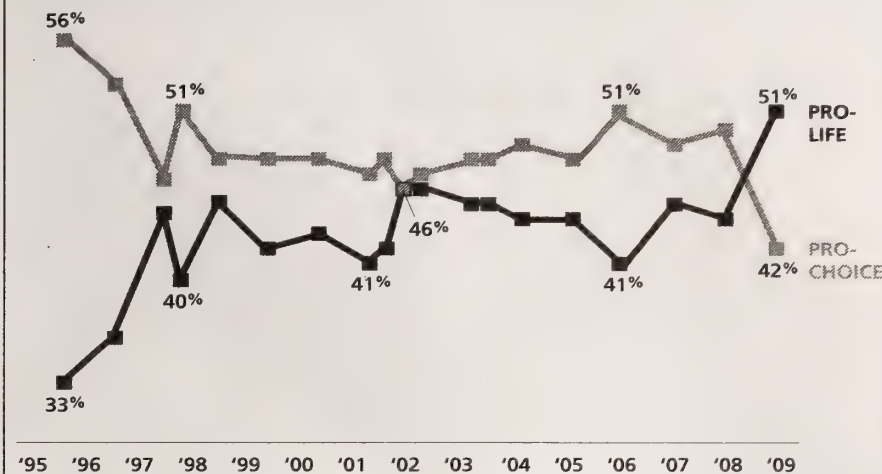
President Barack Obama, who supports legal abortion, also expressed his dismay at the shooting death of the abortion doctor and said such violence wouldn't be tolerated.

"However profound our differences as Americans over difficult issues such as abortion, they cannot be resolved by heinous acts of violence," he said May 31.

At least one abortion opponent condemned what Tiller did while condemning the act that took his life.

MORE AMERICANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES "PRO-LIFE" than "pro-choice" for the first time since Gallup began asking this question:

With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?



"I believe George Tiller was one of the most evil men on the planet; every bit as vile as the Nazi war criminals who were hunted down, tried and sentenced after they participated in the 'legal' murder of the Jews that fell into their hands," said Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue. "But even Mr. Tiller — like other murderers — deserved a trial of his peers, and a legal execution, not vigilante justice."

The murder will most likely tarnish the image of anti-abortion activists and hurt the credibility of advocates who use peaceful means to bring about an end to legal abortion in the U.S., Terry said.

"His killing presents us a severe challenge," he said.

Catholic bishops in Kansas and neighboring Colorado condemned the murder, stating that although they vigorously oppose abortion, violence against those who perform the procedures is counterproductive and contrary to Catholic teaching.

"Many Catholics have over the years engaged in peaceful protest outside of Dr. Tiller's clinic, praying for an end to abortion, and especially late-term abortions. I have on occasion joined them for this purpose," said Bishop Michael O. Jackels of Wichita.

"This position and hope cannot, however, serve as a justification for committing other sins and crimes, like

the willful destruction of property and, even worse, murder," he said.

Bishop Jackels and the bishops who lead the three other Catholic dioceses in Kansas extended their condolences to Tiller's family. They said they were praying for the slain doctor's soul and said the fact that the shooting occurred in a church only adds to the horror of the crime.

Other condemnations of the murder came from Catholics United, Students for Life of America, Priests for Life, Religious Leaders Seeking Common Ground on Abortion, the Pope John Paul II Bioethics Commission, Maryland Right to Life and Cleveland Right to Life.

"We fear, however, that this murder is a byproduct of increasingly hateful and intolerant language on the part of some militant opponents of legal abortion — language that has often sought to demonize people like Dr. Tiller to the point of dehumanization," said Chris Korzen, executive director of Catholics United.

"In the wake of Dr. Tiller's death, we call on all sides of the abortion debate to commit to charitable dialogue and pursuit of common ground solutions," Korzen said. "It is only through this sort of respectful communication that we can find real solutions to abortion and avert tragedies like the one ... in Kansas."

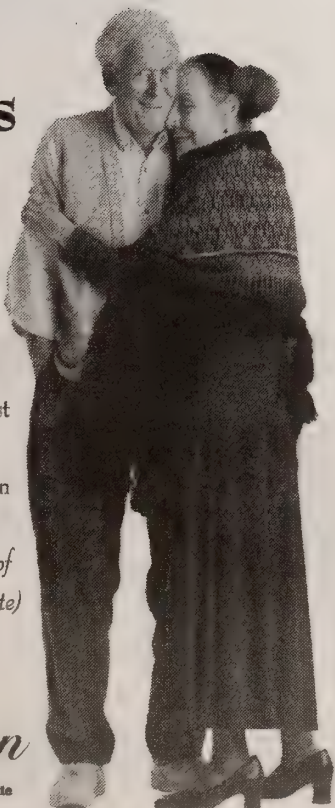
Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

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Pope ordains priests, warns of wordly spirit in the church

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI ordained 19 priests and urged them to make sure their ministry is not contaminated by a worldly mentality.

Priests should dedicate their lives to prayer and service, and never lose sight of the self-sacrifice of Christ, the pope said during the lengthy liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica May 3.

The Mass marked the annual celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The new priests, who will serve in the Diocese of Rome, included 13 from Italy and six from other countries on four continents.

After prostrating themselves on the floor of the basilica as a litany of the saints was chanted, each of the candidates knelt before the pope as he imposed his hands on his head, part of the ordination rite.

In his sermon, the pope quoted the First Letter of John, who contrasted the spirit of the Gospel with the spirit of the "world," a term he used to refer to all that is hostile toward God.

St. John said that "the world does not know us" because it did not know

God, a lament that remains true today, the pope said.

"It's true, and we priests experience this: the 'world,' in John's meaning of the term, does not understand the Christian; does not understand the ministries of the Gospel. In part because in fact it does not know God, and in part because it does not want to know him," he said.

Accepting God would place this worldly attitude in "crisis," the pope said.

"Here we need to pay attention to a reality: that this 'world,' in the evangelical sense, threatens even the church, infecting its members and the ordained ministers themselves," he said.

"The 'world' is a mentality, a manner of thinking and living that can pollute even the church, and in fact does pollute it, and therefore requires constant vigilance and purification," the pope said.

The Christian vocation, he said, is to be free from evil and different from the world, though living in the world.

The pope emphasized the centrality of prayer in the life of each priest. This prayer should be Christ-centered, and its highest form is the Eucharist, he said. From prayer comes the effectiveness of



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Priests lie prostrate during their ordination Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI, at the main altar, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 3.

all other priestly ministry, he said.

"The priest who prays often and prays well becomes progressively expropriated from himself and increasingly united with Jesus, the good shepherd, and the servant of his brothers," he said.

After the Mass, at his noon blessing, the pope urged the entire church

community to pray for priestly vocations.

The pope recently proclaimed a year for priests that will run from June 2009 to June 2010.

In recent years, Vatican statistics have shown that the number of priests and seminarians in the world is increasing somewhat, but not as fast as the general Catholic population.

Year for Priests will show pride in, love for priests

PRIESTS, from page 1

Addressing Italian bishops May 28, Pope Benedict said the year should help priests "rediscover the grace and the goal of priestly ministry."

"It is a service to the church and to the Christian people that requires a deep spirituality," the pope said, because only by being united with the Lord can priests minister effectively through their preaching, their celebration of the sacraments and their assistance to the poor.

In his letter, Cardinal Hummes acknowledged that some priests had been involved in "gravely problematic and unfortunate situations," an apparent reference to recent sexual abuse scandals.

He wrote that while investigation, prosecution and punishment were necessary, "it is also important to keep in mind that these pertain to a very small portion of the clergy."

Most priests, he said, are "people of great integrity, dedicated to the sacred ministry" who sacrifice themselves

and are "in solidarity with the poor and suffering."

Cardinal Hummes said that over the year the economic status of priests also will be addressed "since they live, at times, in situations of great poverty and hardship in many parts of the world."

The new Statistical Yearbook of the Church, just released with figures recorded as of Dec. 31, 2007, showed that the problem of priestly vocations continues.

The yearbook reported a very slight increase, less than 1 percent, in the number of priests between 2000 and the end of 2007.

The number of priests around the world rose from 405,178 in 2000 to 408,024, which the Vatican newspaper described as "not significant, in the light of regional differences."

Africa and Asia show dynamic growth, with increases of 27.5 percent and 21.2 percent, respectively, while the number of priests in the Americas held steady, according to L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Europe, however, showed a decline of nearly 7 percent, while the number of priests in Oceania decreased by more than 5 percent, it said.

During the Year for Priests, Cardinal

Hummes said, there will be study, spiritual exercises, conferences and theological seminars in dioceses around the world.

He said it should be an occasion of "intense appreciation of the priestly identity, of the theology of the Catholic priesthood and of the extraordinary meaning of the vocation and mission of priests within the church and in society."

Above all, the cardinal said, "may it be a year as well of religious and of

public celebration which will bring the people — the local Catholic community — to pray, to reflect, to celebrate and justly to give honor to their priests."

The cardinal's letter was published in several languages on the Congregation for Clergy's Web site — www.clerus.org — but Vatican Radio reported May 27 that on the opening day of the Year for Priests, June 19, the clergy congregation would unveil a special Web site for the year at www.annussacerdotalis.org.



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VOCATIONS

Seven Sisters of Mercy celebrate anniversaries

JUBILEES, from page 1

Celebrating 25 years as a "silver jubiliarian" was Mercy Sister Teresa Susana Dandison.

Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin introduced the Jubilarians to the guests at the celebration.

"You, of course, know our sisters from how they've served among you — foster mothers, teachers, college administrators, nurses, counselors, school principals," she said.

"We sisters know them other ways too — as women who strive to live together in love that the world may be encouraged in their call to love," said Sister Mauldin.

Sister Boulus, a North Carolina native, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. Although her ministry has been mostly in administration, she said she would most like to be remembered as a math teacher.

She currently is director for both the food services for Sacred Heart Convent and the administrative offices of the Sisters of Mercy South Central Community.

Sister Donovan, a native of Long Island, N.Y., entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1950. Although much of her ministry was as an educator, she is gifted in finance as well. For 14 years, she was treasurer of the congregation in Guam, and from 1979 to 1996 she served as treasurer of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

Sister Durbin, a native of Nebraska, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1950. In addition to her ministry in education, Sister Durbin has worked in the office of Holy Angels in Belmont and in the office of the president of the community.

For the past decade, she has served as director of the Media Resource Center for the Diocese of Charlotte.

A native North Carolinian, Sister Godwin entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. She has served as a teacher and has ministered for years as a direct caregiver. Currently, she helps care for ill sisters at Marian Center on the Sisters of Mercy campus in Belmont.

Sister McNally, a native of New York, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. Her ministries have included nursing, teaching, counseling and practicing as a canon lawyer.

As a canon lawyer, she has served as a member of the marriage tribunals for the Archdiocese of Miami and the



COURTESY PHOTO

Seven Sisters of Mercy stand outside St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 30, where they celebrated their jubilee anniversaries as women religious. Pictured are (from left) Mercy Sisters Patricia Durbin, Jeanne-Margaret McNally, Mary Julia Godwin, Mary Agnes Solari, Mary Michel Boulus, Mary Gerard Donovan, Teresa Susana Dandison and Teresa Susana Dandison.

Diocese of Charlotte, and as a canon law teacher in formation programs for the Sisters of Mercy, the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey and the Trappists of Monks Corner, S.C.

Born in Richmond, Va., Sister Solari entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. She has served as a teacher and campus minister for many years. Currently, she is an assistant in the media center at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

A native of Argentina, Sister Dandison entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1984. Widowed prior to her entry, she is a mother and grandmother. She spent some of her first years with the Sisters

of Mercy serving in the Widowed, Separated and Divorced Ministry in the diocese.

She also has been a Mercy presence in the diocese's Hispanic ministry in Davie County since 1996, where she serves those who struggle with language and other difficulties in the health and government systems.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community, visit www.mercysc.org.



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Women consecrated as spiritual mothers for priests

TULSA, Okla. (CNS) — Following a recommendation by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy, 33 women from the Diocese of Tulsa were consecrated as spiritual mothers of priests during a special Mass at Holy Family Cathedral.

They are the first spiritual mothers to be consecrated in the United States, said Father Mark Kirby, a Tulsa priest who directs a cenacle for priests in the diocese.

"Mary is the model for those whom God has called to serve the church by living as spiritual mothers of priests," Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa told

the women during the March 24 Mass.

"With Our Lady, the spiritual mothers of priests have as the heart of their vocation the call to live a life of constant prayer and adoration while making a conscious effort to love generously and freely," he said.

Each of the women was presented with a medal and a certificate signifying her dedication to a particular priest, who was described to her but not named. The priests who expressed interest in having a spiritual mother do not know her identity, either; they only know someone is praying for them and their call to holiness.

The women were asked to spend time daily in adoration and intercessory prayer directed toward their adopted priests. Their consecration followed several weeks of formation. Now that they are consecrated, the women will continue as spiritual mothers for the rest of their lives.

The letter from the Congregation for Clergy, released in 2007, asked bishops to seek out women who would follow the example of Mary and "spiritually adopt priests in order to help them with their self-offering, prayer and penance."

The effort is intended to promote perpetual eucharistic adoration "for the reparation of faults and the sanctification of priests."

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Culture Watch

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Series explores how women overcome boundaries within faith

REVIEWED BY
ELEONORE FOURNIER-TOMBS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Shall we accept merely what is good from God and not accept also what is bad?" (Jb 2:10)

Since he first courageously formulated it, Job's question has been asked again and again by human beings who find it consistently difficult to embrace pain and suffering. Catholics have found inspiration in Job's unwavering loyalty and love for God and have tried to imitate his lack of hatred and anger.

The message hasn't changed. The real test of a person is not to be good when it's easy, but to be good when it's really, really difficult. But what is being good? According to Job, it is remaining devoted to God.

According to Sister Joan Mueller, it's alleviating the suffering of those around you. According to most Catholics, it's somewhere between prayer and action; each person chooses his or her own interpretation.

The new St. Anthony's Press series titled "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women" explores just that. The three first volumes are part personal testimonies, part how-to manuals on overcoming challenges and being good — good to God, good to oneself and good to one's community.

"Making Sense of God," the introduction to the series written by Elizabeth Dreyer, is a guide aimed at empowering women to be theologians, that is, to understand God and worship him in a way that, well, makes sense.

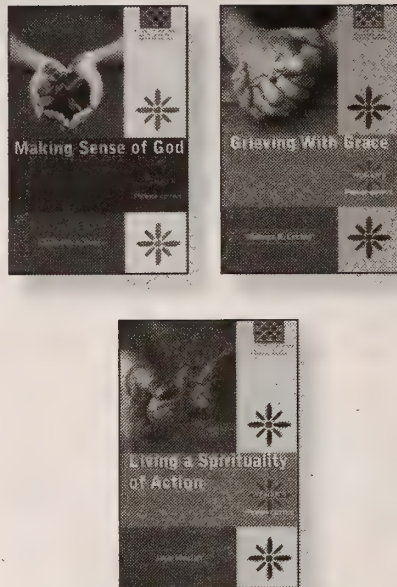
"Grieving With Grace" is a touching little account of a year in Dolores Leckey's life following the sudden death of her husband. Her reprinted diary entries highlight her struggle to come to terms with her loss as she learns about herself and explores suffering around her.

Thinking back on that year, she writes: "At first I wrote as a way of coping. (But) the communion I experienced included not only my husband, but friends, public figures, culture in its many forms, and the social contexts in which we all live."

Leckey's insights will no doubt be a real comfort to any woman coping with loss. Loving and genuine, she also will appeal to anyone wanting to be inspired by the power of faith through suffering.

Finally, in "Living a Spirituality of Action," Sister Mueller, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Joy, shares her experience as founder of Project Welcome, an organization providing support and services to Sudanese refugees settling in Omaha, Neb.

She encourages women to give their time to their communities, and movingly writes about her feelings of pain and discouragement as she tried to improve the lives of the refugees.



"Simply being good," she writes, "really isn't that simple." But, she adds, "a preferential option for the poor invites us to make a choice to serve another person simply because it is the right thing to do."

This series, though, is not only about moral choices. It is also about the meaning of Catholicism for women who for the last two millennia have typically been surrounded by male religious imagery and male leadership in the church.

It is about women who need to overcome boundaries within their own faith to fully develop as good human beings. After all, God chose to be born a man. He really only had two choices — to be born a man or a woman — but his decision left its mark on generations of followers.

Dreyer writes it is not only that human beings struggle to be close to God, but that women have a special challenge in relating to him. While women have had many role models in the Catholic Church, the leading figures have always been men.

After all, the reason that this series of books has come out is that there is a real need for women to find themselves within the church, a need for women to feel that they are not eternally second best.

What's more, based on the first three books, this series is not so much about learning one's place in the church as it is about creating it.

It's a practical read, and if readers go through the exercises, rituals, discussions and reflection periods suggested in the books, they are going to get quite a workout for their souls — whether they're women or men.

Fournier-Tombs is communications officer for Development and Peace, the Canadian Catholic bishops' aid organization.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 14, 2009

June 14, The Most Holy
Body and Blood of Christ

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
- 2) Hebrews 9:11-15
Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Sacrifice is a definition of God's love

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I think of personal sacrifice I am always reminded of something my mother did for me.

One day when I was 19 and out of money and gas, my mother gave me \$20. At the time, it did not seem like such a big deal. Later, I learned that it was her last \$20 and she had been saving it for cigarettes.

This was no small sacrifice for her, as she had been smoking since she was a teenager. Years later she ended up quitting, but at the time, giving up her cigarette money was demonstrative of what she was willing to do for her children.

In my coursework for a degree in theology, I learned this definition of love: To want good for another and be willing to do what it takes to make that good happen.

This is exactly how it was with my mother. She was willing to do whatever it took to make sure her children had what she could give them.

This weekend's readings are all about sacrifice — not just regular sacrifice,

but total giving, a kind of sacrifice that ends in the shedding of blood. The Old Testament reading outlines the Mosaic Covenant regulation for sacrificing an animal, and the New Testament readings reveal the New Covenant in which Jesus is the lamb that is slain.

These passages help us enter into the commemoration of a great feast day, Corpus Christi, when we celebrate the ultimate sacrifice, the total self-giving of Jesus.

The sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus is ever present to us at Mass; it is the center point of our faith and the doorway to heaven.

In this way the heavenly Father defines love. He wants the good for us (eternity with him) so much that he does whatever it takes (sacrificing his Son) so we can have that good.

The Corpus Christi (body of Christ) is an ever-present reminder of the love God has for us. This is made even more special in that we not only receive this truth in our mind and hearts, but the body of Christ enters our body, his sacrificed body saving ours.

Questions:

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Scripture to be Illustrated:

"While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many'" (Matthew 14:22-24).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7-13

Sunday (The Most Holy Trinity), Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20; Monday, 2 Corinthians 1:1-7, Matthew 5:1-12; Tuesday (St. Ephrem), 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Matthew 5:13-16; Wednesday, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday (St. Barnabas), Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:20-26; Friday, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 5:27-32; Saturday (St. Anthony of Padua), 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Matthew 5:33-37.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 14-20

Sunday (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ), Exodus 24:3-8, Hebrews 9:11-15, Mark 14:12-16, 22-26; Monday, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5:43-48; Wednesday, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; Thursday, 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; Friday (The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus), Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9, Isaiah 12:2-6, Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19, John 19:31-37; Saturday (The Immaculate Heart of Mary), 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Luke 2:41-51.

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Vatican Museum director juggles protecting art, keeping it public

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Accommodating ever-increasing crowds while protecting priceless works of art for future generations is the greatest challenge museum directors are facing today, said Antonio Paolucci, director of the Vatican Museums.

With 18 months under his belt as chief of the vast collection gathered by popes over the centuries, Paolucci also said his job was to educate museum visitors, who often do not understand what they are looking at.

He recently told architecture students at La Sapienza University in Rome that the famous labyrinth of galleries he oversees was "the archetype of all museums," unique in its history and formation but also difficult to manage for those same reasons.

Paolucci, the longtime director of the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, was appointed director of the Vatican Museums in December 2007. He is one of Italy's most prominent cultural spokesmen.

Anyone who has been to Rome and visited the Vatican probably has experienced the long line that snakes along its fortified walls; often people wait more than an hour to get into the Vatican Museums, just to find themselves shoulder to shoulder once inside.

In 2008, more than 4.5 million people visited the museums, Paolucci

said, and those numbers show no signs of abating, even with the economic crisis.

To rationally take care of the flow of visitors, the trick for museum directors is to navigate between the overexposure of valuable works and excessive restriction.

"There is the 'Taliban' or extremist approach," he explained. "This type of director hopes that as few people as possible will visit, to avoid the risk of damaging the works."

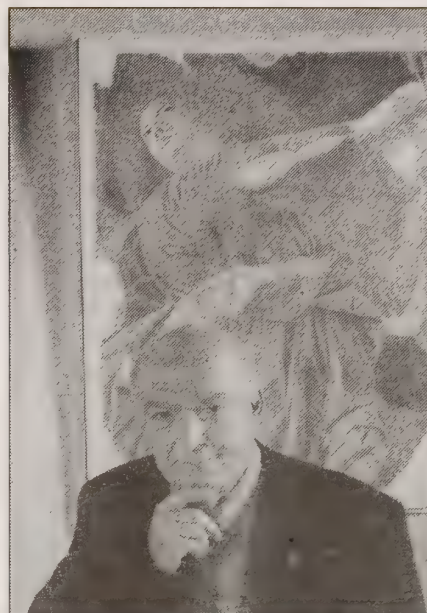
"On the other side of the trajectory there is the permissive director, who is interested in getting as many people as possible, extending hours and making access available to anyone who wants to go," he added.

Balance is needed, he said, and museum authorities today should be emphasizing the "preventative conservation" of galleries and artworks, working on the flow of visitors, controlling the atmosphere, and changing the traffic patterns to avoid too much exposure to delicate works.

Paolucci's greatest frustration is the tendency of most visitors to ignore the many different galleries in the Vatican Museums to get to the Sistine Chapel.

"It's an anthropological phenomenon ... people have this single goal when they come to the Vatican Museums," he said.

It is the "unfortunate consequence" of the importance of the chapel, covered



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF VATICAN MUSEUMS

Antonio Paolucci, director of Vatican Museums, is one of Italy's most prominent cultural spokesmen. He said his greatest frustration is the tendency of most visitors to ignore the many different galleries in the Vatican Museums to get to the Sistine Chapel.

with Michelangelo frescoes, he said, "like a light that shines so strongly that it prevents one from seeing the rest."

Even the famous Raphael rooms that visitors pass through on the way to the chapel are barely looked at, he said. He blamed the "relentless schedules of the tourist industry" for herding people through in an average of one hour and 15 minutes.

He said most visitors ignored galleries with exceptional collections of Greco-Roman statuary; Etruscan, Egyptian and ethnic art and artifacts; the Pinacoteca, with its collection of medieval and Renaissance paintings; and the famous Gallery of Maps.

So while the quantity of museum visits is continually rising, the quality has suffered, Paolucci said, lamenting the "semantic blackout, a clouding

over of the significance of things" of contemporary culture.

"Understanding a painting by Titian is like understanding a Shakespeare sonnet or a work by Cervantes," but people come to museums completely unprepared for the experience, he said.

"We are working on that, sending out student guides, helping to explain the works," he said. "We need to decipher the Vatican Museums for people."

Unlike many other collections in Europe that were originally gathered by generations of dynastic families like the Medicis in Italy, the Romanovs in Russia or the Habsburgs in Austria, the Vatican collections grew according to the tastes and ideas of each successive pope, Paolucci said.

"Each pope was different and brought with him his own culture, and so a different sort of collecting," he said.

Noting the unifying idea, he said, "All popes sought to use the figurative arts, because they understood the extraordinary importance and exceptional potential for persuasion, propaganda and education of artistic expression."

Paolucci credits Pope Julius II, the pope best known for commissioning Michelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel, with beginning the museums by bringing to the papal palace the famous "Greek Laocoon" sculpture in 1506.

Soon after, Pope Julius added the "Apollo of Belvedere," which he brought from his own family palace.

The Vatican collection was founded on Greco-Roman statuary, and it was not a casual choice, Paolucci explained.

"It was a very precise ideological and cultural plan — the church of Rome that makes classical art its own, that Christianizes the classical era," he said.

That was the beginning of a "torturous, discordant accumulation of works of art," with no precise plan, which according to Paolucci "is what makes the Vatican Museums so unique and fascinating today."

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of June, as another school year comes to an end, here is a look at some of the Catholic schools that once served students in the Diocese of Charlotte but are now closed.



ARCHIVAL PHOTO

A nun plays a guitar for students outside St. John the Evangelist School in Waynesville in this undated photograph.

Asheville Catholic High School

The school was established as St. Francis School for Boys by Franciscan Friars in 1949. It stood on the old Glen Eden estate, with the mansion converted into classrooms and the stable into a laboratory.

On Sept. 3, 1957, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh established Asheville Catholic High School as a co-ed institution staffed by three different religious orders: Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Religious of Christian Education.

A new high school building and gymnasium/auditorium were completed on the same estate property in 1960. Bishop Waters dedicated the new facilities April 24, 1960. Due to declining enrollment, the high school closed in June 1972. The property was sold to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in 1974.

St. Genevieve of the Pines, Asheville

The story of St. Genevieve's began in December 1907, when five women of Religious of Christian Education moved into a house on Starnes Ave. They had established a school in their home by January 1908. By September 1908, they operated the school in two houses located on N. Main Street (now Broadway) and had an enrollment of 80 students, six of whom were boarding students.

Next, the school moved to the former Victoria Inn on Victoria Rd. and became St. Genevieve of the Pines. Classes at the new campus started in January 1911.

In 1949, the sisters added Gibbons Hall for boys and began St. Genevieve of the Pines School for Secretaries in 1955.

The Religious of Christian Education ceased operating St. Genevieve's in 1971 due to a shortage of vocations and the age and poor health of the sisters. However, the institution continued instructing under the care of a board of trustees with some of the sisters remaining as teachers.

St. Genevieve's merged with Asheville Country Day School in 1987. Today it is called the Carolina Day School. The St. Genevieve property was sold to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

Notre Dame High School, Greensboro

The school was established in the former St. Leo Hospital on Summit Avenue. Bishop Waters dedicated Notre Dame High School Sept. 11, 1955 and classes started that same month.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur originally staffed the high school, but a lack of vocations forced them to withdraw in June 1968, resulting in the closing of the high school. Prior to 1971, the building was demolished and the property was leased in 1972.

St. Benedict School, Greensboro

The parochial school opened Sept. 6, 1926 in a house on East Smith St. Four Sisters of Charity of Vincent de Paul taught 62 students, with the sisters' convent located on the floor above the classrooms.

St. Benedict School closed in 1954 when the newly built St. Pius X School opened. The school property was leased to a business in 1968, and has since then been converted into a parking lot.

Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Hickory

The Sisters of Mercy established the academy in 1880 as a finishing school for young ladies. Mt. St. Joseph Academy sat on 13 acres between Second and Fourth avenues SW and Sixth and Seventh streets SW. The property contained a convent, two small dwellings and stables.

In 1888, due to financial considerations and infrequent reception of the sacraments, the sisters closed the school and sold the property to the Ohio Lutherans, who converted it into a practical seminary.

Later, the seminary became the site of St. Paul Lutheran Church. After closing and selling the academy, the sisters moved to Charlotte and opened St. Mary's Seminary, the predecessor to St. Patrick School.

St. Francis of Assisi School, Lenoir

The school was located in a house beside St. Francis of Assisi Church on West College Ave. Franciscan Father Ildephonse Gillogly founded the school, which was dedicated in October 1947.

Two Franciscan Sisters from Allegheny initially staffed the school, which by 1956 had 50 students in first through eighth grades. The school was closed circa 1960.

St. John the Evangelist School, Waynesville

The school opened in September 1939 with an initial enrollment of 40 students in kindergarten through 12th grade taught by six Sisters of St. Francis from Milwaukee. Originally, the W. J. Hannah building provided classroom space as well as housing for the sisters.

In 1956, Bishop Waters dedicated the new "modern" school built on the corner of Church and Meadow streets. High school classes were taught on the lower level of the building while elementary students met on the upper level. When the sisters departed in 1963, the school closed temporarily. It reopened in August 1964 with the arrival of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio. They remained until 1979, at which time the Daughters of Charity took over.

The Daughters of Charity operated the school for one year. Thus, after 40 years of service to the Waynesville area, St. John School closed permanently in 1980.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — GREENSBORO

St. Pius X Catholic School in Greensboro, North Carolina is accepting resumes for the position of Assistant Principal for the 2009-2010 school year. St. Pius X Catholic School is a K-8 school with approximately 475 students. The Assistant Principal collaborates closely with the principal, faculty, parents, students, and parish community.

The successful candidate will be a person who is active in his or her Catholic faith, with a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and who has at least 5 years of successful classroom experience at the elementary or middle school level.

The salary and benefits are based on an 11-month position and on education and experience.

Interested applicants should send a letter of application and resume to:

Mrs. Anne Knapke, Principal
St. Pius X Catholic School
2200 N. Elm Street
Greensboro, NC 27408

Or email to:
aknapke@spxschool.com

FULLTIME DIRECTOR OF RETREATS — HIGH SCHOOL

Cardinal Gibbons High School, a college preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, seeks a fulltime Director of Retreats (DOR). Responsibilities include planning and administration of current overnight, off-campus retreat programs for current freshman, sophomore and junior classes. This includes interfacing with various faculty retreat coordinators and training of the student peer leaders. Additional responsibilities include the establishment and administration of a "Kairos" program for the senior class.

Candidates must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and the ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Religious Studies or its equivalent, have experience in high school/parish retreat, youth ministry and outreach initiatives. The DOR reports to the Asst. Principal for Spiritual Life. Benefits included; salary commensurate with experience.

Submit resume with references to: Rev. Scott McCue, Asst. Principal for Spiritual Life, smccue@cghsnc.org. Deadline: June 30, 2009. Position begins: August, 2009.

Elementary School Principal (K-5th) Opening

Saint Egbert Catholic School in Morehead City, North Carolina, serves the students of Carteret County which is located on the pristine Crystal Coast situated on the south east coast. The Crystal Coast is an 85-mile stretch of beautiful scenery, friendly towns, rich maritime history, and abundant outdoor recreation.

Position: St. Egbert Catholic Church seeks an experienced educational leader to serve as principal for its K-5th grade school beginning the 2009-2010 school year. Saint Egbert Catholic School (enrollment capacity of 150) has provided 53 years of quality Catholic education for Carteret County. The applicant must possess the following qualifications:

Faith: Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

Education: A Master's Degree in School Administration or equivalent and hold, or be able to hold, a North Carolina Administrator's License.

Experience: Notable academic experience and 5 or more years as administrator/principal/assistant principal or equivalent experience.

Qualified applicants are invited to review the complete posting at www.stegbert.org and send a resume, cover letter, curriculum vitae, and list of references to Psearch.stegbert@ec.rr.com or:

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Healthy habits



COURTESY PHOTO

Students line up to show their brushing skills to Dr. Adrienne Cowan, a local dentist, during a health fair at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point April 2. Other health topics covered by invited area professionals included nutrition, bone and eye health, and safety education.

Quenching thirsts, raising funds



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders from St. Gabriel School in Charlotte run a lemonade stand at the school May 14. The stand, held every May for 11 years, has raised \$1,650 for books for the school library. Additionally, the students learn about products, production, profit, supply and demand, and marketing. Pictured (from left) are Quinlan Ryan, Matthew Gormley, Case Johnson, Preston Silverd, Ben Frondorf, T.J. Divittorio, Aidan Petruski and Ansley Plym.

Pupil principal



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Joseph Puceta works with kindergarten student Chloe Hildrenbrand, who dons a tie as part of her role as Principal for a Day at St. Michael School in Gastonia May 21. As part of her duties, Principal Chloe helped with announcements, assisted at Mass, served lunch and visited classes. When asked what her first duty of the day would be, she replied, "I want to call my daddy and talk to him."

Student court



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders from St. Patrick School in Charlotte are pictured with Federal Magistrate Judge Carl Horn at the Federal Courthouse in Charlotte May 11. It was the third year that Horn, a Catholic whose children were once Catholic school students, presided over the case of "BB Wolf v. Curly Pig," during which students played the roles of lawyers, witnesses, jurors, court staff, judge and parties to the lawsuit. After the "trial," Horn and U.S. Marshall Otis Hamilton spoke to the students about the law and courts. Hamilton handcuffed teaching assistant Mary Vendal as part of a demonstration.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Eternal truths, instant and perishable news

Internet offers additional challenges, opportunities for church

At the risk of "lese-majeste" (injury to majesty), it's good to see the Vatican is catching on.

"In a world such as ours, we would be deluding ourselves if we thought that communication can always be carefully controlled or that it can always be conducted smoothly and as a matter of course," said Jesuit Father Frederico Lombardi, the official Vatican spokesman, in a recent lecture.

Some of the church's recent problems with communication remind me of an incident some years ago in a United States archdiocese when accumulated snow from an early spring storm collapsed the roof of the cathedral. The rector of the cathedral called the archdiocesan newspaper editor to view the damage.

As they both looked at the broken ceiling and the plaster, glass and snow in the sanctuary, the rector cautioned: "Now, not a word to the press about this." A weak attempt at controlling the news.

Father Lombardi said that one of the challenges of the Internet is that it can destroy or confuse the hierarchy of the providing of information established by church agencies. There are no unfiltered messages anymore. The time for hierarchal news control has ended.

Think of it as the undersea trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific cable that at one time carried a message untouched east to west, west to east. Now submarines from many nations are able to tap into that cable and listen to or even alter transmissions.

Within living memory, newspapers printed "extra" editions to publish breaking news. These were outmoded by radio broadcast for immediacy and then radio by television, which added moving pictures to immediacy. Now both of these have been supplanted by the Internet, which provides news constantly by the minute.

It is hard then, to "get out in front" of a news story.

One rule for effective, positive communication is to get the story out first with as full a disclosure as possible. If the roof falls in, say so accurately and quickly.

Father Lombardi, in his lecture at Westminster Theological Seminary in London, cited three recent incidents that drew media attention. They were the pope's speech on Islam in 2006 at Regensburg, Germany, the lifting of the excommunication of a bishop who denied the extent of the Holocaust and the pope's comment that distribution of condoms is not effective against AIDS.

In each case, Father Lombardi said, the criticism provoked additional Vatican

Consider This

TONY
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CNS COLUMNIST



responses. Although these responses arrived rather late, they were serious, penetrating and well-argued, he said.

But today, "late" trumps all three: serious, penetrating and well-argued.

Getting out in front of a story is a difficult change for a millennium-old organization, such as the Vatican, staffed by people comfortable in the polite academic world where arguments are carefully crafted, contemplated and presented without regard for time.

After all, a day for the Vatican is a minute for today's Internet culture.

The end result is that a response, despite its coherence, risks being viewed as an alibi or an excuse. There are no more news cycles.

That is why the speed of the processing of news makes even more valuable the skills brought to the process by professional reporters and editors. This is even more important when the news and information is often involved in the nuanced language of theology.

The need to speak the truth rather than seek approval means the church will often be counter to the values of society, said Father Lombardi.

Eternal truths, yes, but communicated within the context of instant and perishable news.

Only fools rush in

Christian living requires action, not apathy

I don't consider myself brave. In fact, I typically consider myself a darned fool.

And a few nights ago I got to reaffirm that belief.

My wife and I were roused from bed by the sound of a bullet shattering our front window. A car was outside, gunshots were being fired, a woman was screaming.

As my wife hastily called 911, I responded differently — I ran outside to help. I discovered a man attacking my neighbor, a woman in her 50s, in her driveway across the street.

The 25-year-old perpetrator, who had threatened to kill my neighbor, was chased off and eventually apprehended by police. My wife and I then waited outside with the hysterical woman, who wailed "He was trying to kill me! He was trying to kill me!" until the cops came.

I later learned that about six shots had been fired. At least two of the bullets tore through my house and are now embedded in interior walls.

Not the type of redecorating my wife had in mind when we moved in.

When I told this story to friends and coworkers, many had a similar response: "Why did you run outside? Why didn't you just duck down and call the police?"

Valid questions, I'll agree. They remind me of that old saying: "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." I don't typically advocate rushing into gunfire, but I guess it just seemed like the right thing to do at the time.

Interestingly, I was the only one to run out to try and help the woman. And in the long minutes after the attack, my wife and I were the only ones in our typically-quiet suburban neighborhood to go out there and comfort her.

Even after the police arrived, nobody came over to see if she was all right. She could have been shot, stabbed, bleeding; she could have collapsed in her driveway or in the street. Nobody else came out or over to help.

Am I surprised? Not necessarily. It was gunfire, after all. But how many of us see stranded motorists on the side of the road and keep on driving? Someone

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E.
MURRAY
EDITOR



else will call 911, we tell ourselves.

How many of us walk or drive by homeless people asking for help on a street corner? We pretend not to see them and do our best not to make eye contact.

I guess it's easier to look away, keep going and assume it's all someone else's problem, that someone else will take care of it. I guess going to work or to the mall or keeping to our ever-so-busy schedules is more important than risking our safety to help another human being.

Is that the right thing to do? Is that what Christ would want us to do?

It reminds me of another valid question: Why do firefighters run into a burning building when everyone else is running out? Maybe it's their job and they do it for the pay. Or maybe just because it's the right thing to do.

Firefighters are certainly brave, no doubt about it, as are all emergency-service responders. And all the men and women of our Armed Forces. And anyone who stands up and runs toward potential danger that would send the rest of us scurrying. They come running when we call them; they are there when we need them. That, if nothing else, makes them heroes. Some would even call them angels.

But heroism isn't just about standing up to danger. Sometimes it's about standing up to the impossible. Sometimes it's just about standing up for what's right.

The single mother who gets up every day to work three jobs to keep a roof over her kids' heads and food on their table — that's heroism.

The woman in a crisis pregnancy who risks sacrifice and condemnation to give her baby the gift of life — that's heroism.

The doctor who leaves his comfortable practice to serve the poor and impoverished in a Third World country — that's heroism.

The young man or woman who gives up a secular life to answer a call and serve a higher purpose in ministry to God and his people — that's heroism.

Any one of us, who defies his or her own selfish needs and the apathetic trends of our self-centered society to see Christ in all people and to truly be Christ to all people — that's heroism.

So maybe only fools do rush in where angels fear to tread. Or maybe, that next time we choose to act and make a difference, we may be the angels God has sent to do his work.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Jesus called

Different approaches to teaching faith may be needed to reach all people

Jesus called.

Not Jesus, our lord and savior, but Jesus, a Mexican-American man who occasionally comes to our parish.

He wanted to talk about God. We talked for a couple of hours.

Over the years I have seen him and his wife for various things. They come when they want something like marriage or baptism for their babies.

They come when they have financial, legal, medical or marital troubles.

Once they came to see me when they were about to lose their house to foreclosure. I sent money to save their property. They were grateful, but seemed to take it for granted.

In their eyes, the Catholic Church is a big, rich institution. The priest is a community official. You go to him when you need something, but not to talk about faith.

So, for the first time, Jesus and I sat down and really talked about faith.

He had recently gone through a conversion experience. A couple of weeks before, he had touched bottom, and a cousin took him to see a Pentecostal pastor. Jesus really listened.

He did not see the pastor as some

sort of social service agency.

The pastor said the right thing. He told Jesus, "I can't help you, but there is One who can." Then he opened the Bible and pointed to Christ.

Good.

I was not defensive about it. I am glad when people authentically find God, no matter how. But I was discouraged.

Why, after all these years of helping them, did he go to the Pentecostal minister for conversion?

When Jesus came to see me, we also opened the Bible.

I read to him from the story of the cripple whom St. Peter met at the Temple gate in Jerusalem. The cripple wanted money.

St. Peter said to him, "Silver and gold I have not, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk."

I told him, "What do you think I have been preaching all these years in this church. Why didn't you ever come to see me about faith?"

I gave him a Bible and catechism. It was a start.

Before he left, we prayed together. We really prayed. I explained to him

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



the significance of the sign of the cross, which he had been making automatically all his life. We agreed to talk some more.

When he left the great sorrow I felt still lingered. I was discouraged, not angry.

Jesus sees the Catholic Church through the prism of Mexican culture. We are the background music of life. The priest in Mexican culture is often a remote figure, not a spiritual companion.

Our churches are so big it is hard to speak to everyone's heart. We sacramentalize, but we don't evangelize.

Why?

Partly because many are not listening.

Partly because we are too busy with other things and we assume people already know the faith. But they don't.

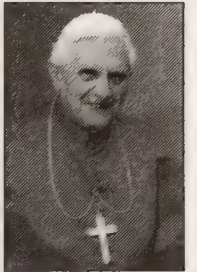
Both Jesus and I have a bit of rethinking to do about our approach to religion.

But I won't miss another chance to talk about faith. It is the most important thing we do.

Busy days or vacations must never distract people from God, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Fulfilled vacations or hectic workweeks must never distract people from dedicating a little time each day and, especially every Sunday, to God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"We must set aside time in life for God, to open our life to God with a thought, a meditation, a small prayer and to not forget Sunday is the day of the Lord," he said.

During his weekly general audience June 3 in St. Peter's Square, the pope used the example of Blessed Rabanus Maurus, a Benedictine monk and bishop, to show how a person can live a busy life without sacrificing spiritual study, meditation and prayer.

With an estimated 17,000 people gathered in the square, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks on important figures in the early church.

Rabanus Maurus' life demonstrates how one can be completely at the service of others "without depriving oneself of spending a proper amount of time in reflection, study and meditation," said Pope Benedict.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our catechesis today deals with another great monastic figure of the High Middle Ages, Rabanus Maurus.

Rabanus entered monastic life at a young age as an oblate, was trained in the liberal arts and received a broad formation in the Christian tradition. As the abbot of Fulda and then as archbishop of Mainz, he contributed through his vast learning and pastoral zeal to the unity of the empire and the transmission of a Christian culture deeply nourished by the Scriptures and the Fathers of the church.

From his youth he wrote poetry, and he is probably the author of the famous hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*. Indeed, his first theological work was a poem on the holy Cross, in which the poetry was accompanied by an illuminated representation of the crucified Christ.

This medieval method of joining poetry to pictorial art sought to lift the whole person — mind, heart and senses — to the contemplation of the truth contained in God's word.

In the same spirit Rabanus sought to transmit the richness of the Christian cultural tradition through his prolific commentaries on the Scriptures, his explanations of the liturgy and his pastoral writings.

This great man of the church continues to inspire us by his example of an active ministry nourished by study, profound contemplation and constant prayer.

My happiest moment

A reflection of nearly 50 years in the priesthood

May 28, 2009, was the 49th anniversary of my ordination. As I prepare for my upcoming golden jubilee, I recall four highlights from my life as a priest.

Each was special, but the happiest one took place way back on the very day of my ordination. Here is a brief overview of those four events.

One day, early in the presidency of Ronald Reagan, I received a phone call from the White House, inviting me to a luncheon.

Was this a joke?

Apparently not; the president was pushing for private-sector solutions to social problems and turned to religious broadcasters for help.

The top Protestant TV evangelists were there, and since I had a nationally syndicated TV show, "Christopher Closeup," I was invited too.

Surrounded by fundamentalists who believed that I was not saved, I felt oddly uncomfortable. I learned that glory does not always bring joy.

In 1981, Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens asked me to come to Belgium to meet King Albert Baudouin, who was the patriarch of the Catholic royal families of Europe.

The king asked me to conduct a spiritual retreat for his royal nephews and nieces.

It was a thrill, of course, but when the time came I was pleasantly surprised to see how normal they all were.

I remember asking two of his nieces from Spain, "Is it true that you are both princesses?"

"Yes," the younger one answered, "her mother is a Bourbon, and my mother is an Orleans."

At that moment, for the first time, I realized that Bourbon Street in New Orleans was not named after the drink! This event was pure joy.

A third highlight came in 1991 when I was invited to Dallas to speak before 400 bishops, archbishops and cardinals at their annual workshop.

The keynote speaker that year was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI.

To my utter shock, he stayed on to listen to my talk. It was the toughest audience I ever faced.

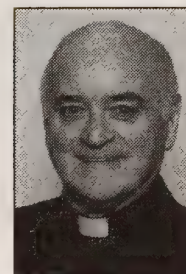
When I stepped down, Jesuit Father Avery Dulles was the next speaker. To this day I do not know how my talk went over, but this I do know: Father Dulles eventually became Cardinal Dulles while I have remained Father Catoir! I am happy anyway.

The real highlight of my life took place on May 28, 1960, the day of my ordination.

My father came forward for my first

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



priestly blessing and burst into tears. He wrote this letter to me 25 years later:

"Dear Son, Congratulations on your silver jubilee. I never told you this before, but the fondest and happiest moment of my life was the day you were ordained, and I went up to get your first blessing.

"I was so emotionally charged I couldn't see where I was going. As I returned, I just dropped into a vacant pew, buried my head in my hands, and had a good cry.

"They were happy tears, but I deeply regretted the fact that your good mother did not live long enough to share this joy with me. I'm sure she was happily watching over us from heaven.

"Pray for me always. I am happy to say that I am your father and you are my son. With a heart full of love, Dad."

The experience of meeting a president, a king and a future pope all seem to pale in comparison to the joyful memory of my ordination day.

My father returned to God in 1992.

Parishes, schools celebrate multicultural diversity, one faith



COURTESY PHOTO

A parishioner representing the Philippines performs a traditional Binasuan dance at the second annual Multicultural Festival at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte May 30. More than 800 people gathered to celebrate the parish's rich cultural diversity.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Greensboro Chinese Association perform a high mountain tribe dress dance during the fifth International Festival at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point May 31.



COURTESY PHOTO

A fourth-grade student at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte gives a presentation on Liberia to visiting fifth-grade students from St. Patrick School during Multicultural Week at Our Lady of the Assumption School May 15. The weeklong festivities included hallway exhibits with student presentations, multicultural games and crafts, a cultural showcase and a potluck dinner.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Filipino-American Community of the Carolinas take part in a Flores de Mayo celebration at St. Matthew Church May 30. Flores de Mayo is a Catholic festival held in the Philippines during May in honor of the Virgin Mary. The celebration in Charlotte has been held annually for 20 years.



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Reflecting on abortionist's
murder; life lessons; Year
for Priests

| PAGES 14-15

JUNE 19, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 31

Making space

*Bishop Jugis blesses
new parish center*

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE —

When the new St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church was consecrated Sept. 30, 2007, parishioners gathered to celebrate in the unfinished parish center just below the church.

One day soon, they had hoped, the rudimentary room would be finished.

Those hopes, fleshed out by hard work, were realized June 12. Some 150 parishioners feasted on a barbecue dinner celebrating the dedication of their newly completed parish activity center.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the facility with holy

See CENTER, page 7

Doing small things with great love

*Club helps children
perform community
service work*

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMEIDER
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Children at St. Barnabas Church in Arden are working together to make a difference in their community.

Mary Ann Poli, religious education director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, created the Mother Teresa Club

See YOUTHS, page 4

To serve Christ the shepherd



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priesthood candidate Benjamin Roberts places his hands between Bishop Peter J. Jugis' hands in a promise of obedience to him and to his successors during his ordination to the priesthood at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 6.

*Father Benjamin
Roberts ordained a
priest for the diocese*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A smile spread across the face of priesthood candidate Benjamin Roberts as he processed down the aisle at the start of his ordination Mass. That smile remained a permanent fixture throughout the ceremony.

"It was a glorious day," said Father Roberts, who formally dedicated his life to serving the Lord, the church and the people of God as he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 6.

During his homily, Bishop Jugis reminded the candidate of the importance of "daily conversation with Jesus in prayer."

"It is Christ's love which

See PRIEST, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin carries a monstrance during a eucharistic procession at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point June 14.

Celebrating the real presence of Jesus

*15th anniversary of perpetual adoration
commemorated in High Point*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

HIGH POINT — In 1994, the bishop of Charlotte inaugurated perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at a chapel in High Point.

To commemorate the 15th anniversary, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin returned

to celebrate Mass and lead an outdoor eucharistic procession at Pennybyrn at Maryfield on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 14.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is a retirement living community founded by the Sisters of the

See EUCHARIST, page 13

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Pastoral Assignments

*A list of priest assignments
in the Diocese of Charlotte*

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In Our Schools

*Graduations, end-of-year
activities for students*

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Culture Watch

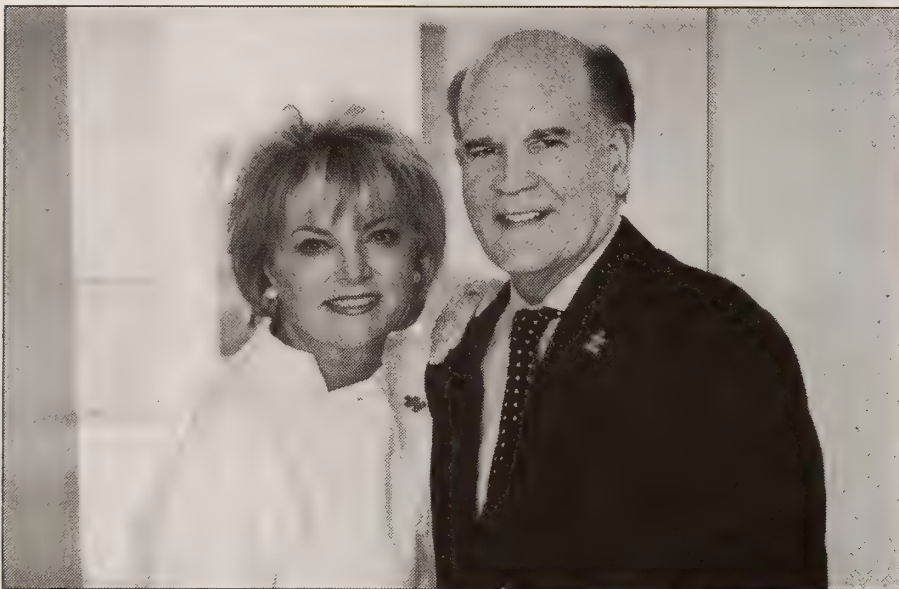
*Book on women religious;
Bible in new format*

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

'IF NOT US, WHO?'



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTISM SPEAKS

Bob and Suzanne Wright of Fairfield, Conn., founded Autism Speaks in 2005. The Catholic couple was honored June 9 with the Servitor Pacis Award from the Path to Peace Foundation, which supports the work of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations.

Catholic couple recognized for autism advocacy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Nicholas Giangregorio, 8, was first diagnosed with autism before his second birthday, his family found it difficult to convince society to accept them.

The town pool wouldn't let the family in because they didn't want the child's stroller — his safety net — near the water. An usher at their Long Island church shut the back doors on the family because of the noise he made in the vestibule.

But since Bob and Suzanne Wright founded Autism Speaks in 2005, the Giangregorios have noticed a collective increase in awareness and understanding about the disease, a complex brain disorder affecting abilities to communicate and develop social relationships.

They learned how to approach the town and are now allowed to bring Nicholas to the pool, stroller and all.

And Michael Giangregorio, the boy's father, used the organization's resources to help organize an autism awareness Mass at St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Franklin Square, N.Y., this spring.

Michael Giangregorio said he owes a debt of gratitude to the Wrights, who were honored June 9 with a Path to Peace Foundation Servitor Pacis Award.

The award is often given to "unsung heroes" who serve "where the need is greater, where the wounds are festering and the pain unending," according to the foundation's Web site. The foundation was established to support the work of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations.

"They're my heroes," Giangregorio said of the Wrights, whose grandson Christian was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2.

Angela DiStefano, another parent who helped organize the Long Island Mass, said it was difficult to find autism resources in 1997, when her son John,

now 14, was first diagnosed with the disease, which affects 1 in 150 children.

DiStefano made connections at the special education preschool he attended, but she still felt alone. Through Autism Speaks, she met parents going through the same struggles. "It has really opened up a different world for me," she said.

Opening up worlds of communication was the Wrights' intention.

Almost five years after its founding, Autism Speaks funds more than \$30 million each year in new research. It has worked to see insurance legislation passed in five states. About 1 million people frequent the Internet's social networks. About 400,000 people participated in 80 nationwide walks this year.

The Wrights, who live in Fairfield, Conn., said their Catholic faith has always driven their desire to help others.

"God gave it to us knowing that we were going to do something about this," Suzanne Wright said.

"It seemed like, if not us, who?" Bob Wright added.

Likewise, faith helps keep the Giangregorios and DiStefanos strong.

"I don't know how I would have ever been able to go through anything without my faith," Angela DiStefano said. "I rely on God every day to get me through."

And John, her 14-year-old, picks up on this. He prays for people with problems and assures them they will be OK, and he sings in the youth choir at his church.

Giangregorio said his faith is important because it reminds him that his son is a blessing who taught him patience and because he needs miracles to believe in. But it always helps to have people like the Wrights on his side. "If that isn't something that should be recognized as a mission of peace, then I don't know what is," he said.

Mexican bishops condemn murders of priest, two seminarians

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican bishops' conference has condemned the murders of a priest and two seminarians in the southern state of Guerrero as they were traveling to a religious retreat.

"We ... condemn the violence that is plaguing our country and demand that the authorities from all levels of government quickly carry out an investigation and find those responsible for this cowardly crime," said a statement issued June 15, two days after the killings. "From our faith, we express the certainty that Father Habacuc Hernandez ... and the seminarians Eduardo Oregon Benitez and Silvestre Gonzalez now enjoy the presence of our heavenly Father."

The three men were shot dead by gunmen while they traveled through a violence-plagued region known as Tierra Caliente, where drug-cartel activities have been on the increase. Media reports said the three men, who worked and studied in the Diocese of Ciudad Altamirano,

were shot in the back. No motive has been provided for the attacks.

"We don't know exactly what happened, but everything points to organized crime," said Father Juan Carlos Flores, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Acapulco. "The deaths of these prelates is part of the violence that the entire state is living through."

The murders also were part of an upswing of drug-related violence in Guerrero. The state is best known for the beaches and glitzy villas of Acapulco, but also has marginalized regions, with human development index scores on par with sub-Saharan Africa.

"The deaths are a message for telling us that things are getting very serious," Father Pedro Pantoja, director of the migrant shelter for the Diocese of Saltillo, told reporters in Mexico City June 15.

Organized crime, he added, "could care less (who we are.) We're no longer honorable to them."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — "The Catholic Understanding of Human Rights and the Common Good" will be presented by Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of Fordham University on June 29 at 7 p.m. in St. Francis Hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This event, sponsored by the Respect Life program and Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services, is free. Registration is required. To register, call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org. For more information, visit www.cssnc.org.

SWANNANOVA — A Natural Family Planning Class will be lead by Batrice Adcock on Saturday, June 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, Swannanoa. Mass will begin at 8 a.m. with the class following. To sign up, call (828) 686-8833. For directions, visit www.stmargaretmarycatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent

de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. (no study July 15). The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — The young adult ministry group at St. Peter Church will conclude its June *Theology on Tap* series with a celebratory Mass at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., June 22 at 7 p.m. This event is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested in discovering more about their faith in an open and relaxed environment. A dessert social in Biss Hall will follow. To RSVP, e-mail rebhay@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *respect life Mass* will be celebrated Saturday, June 27 at 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Immediately after Mass there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity to pray the rosary with Father Timothy Reid, pastor, at a local abortion facility. The morning will conclude with Benediction upon Father Reid's return. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — Presentations on the church's social and moral teachings will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., June 29 and July 1. Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of Fordham University will present "The Catholic Understanding of Human Rights and the Common Good" June 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and "St. Paul on Questions of Human Life, Marriage, and Society" July 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These events, sponsored by the Respect Life program and Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services, are free. Registration is required. To register, call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org. Lunch will be

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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JUNE 19, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 31

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope urges world leaders to tackle hunger at UN summit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged international leaders to turn their attention to the growing problem of world hunger as they deal with the global economic crisis.

Looking ahead to a U.N. financial summit in New York June 24-25, the pope said the meeting should be carried out "in a spirit of wisdom and solidarity, so that the current crisis can be transformed into an opportunity."

The goal should be to "promote an equitable distribution of decision-making power and of resources, with particular attention to the number of poor, which unfortunately is increasing," the pope said June 14 at the Vatican.

The pope, who is preparing to release an encyclical on social and economic justice, said he wanted to remember in a special way the hundreds of millions of people who suffer from hunger.

"This is an absolutely unacceptable reality, and has been difficult to control

despite the efforts of the past decades," he said, and that he hoped the upcoming U.N. conference and other international agencies would "make strategic choices — sometimes not easy to accept — that are necessary to assure basic nourishment and a dignified life for everyone, now and in the future."

The summit is aimed at identifying emergency and long-term responses to lessen the effects of the current economic crisis, especially on developing populations. It was expected to discuss transformation of international financial structures, a topic that has already prompted debate among nations.

Pope Benedict was preparing to publish his third encyclical, tentatively titled "Caritas in Veritate" ("Love in Truth"), in early July. It was expected to treat Catholic social teachings and apply them to a wide array of current problems, including poverty, war and environmental destruction.

provided to those who register in advance.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass for U.S. military personnel* July 5 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary, to be recited at 2:30 p.m., will be offered for all military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. Military personnel are invited and encouraged to attend in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving will be displayed in the cathedral. To include your loved ones, mail a color or black-and-white photocopy of them with their name and military rank on the back of the photos to Mrs. Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 to be received no later than July 1. Photocopies of pictures will not be returned.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A *Mass in the extraordinary form* to celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., June 21 at 4 p.m. A women's and men's schola will be formed for the chants of the Mass. Interested singers should contact Robin Shea at RSHEA@triad.rr.com for the women's schola and Brian Marble at musicdirector@olgchurch.org for the men's schola to arrange rehearsals.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will begin a six-week program on the Epistle to the Hebrews June 30. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The *Flames of Fire charismatic prayer group* meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2201 West Market St. All those interested in the charismatic way of life are invited

to attend. For more information, call Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730 or Lorraine Brown (336) 292-5186.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Are you interested in learning about your Irish heritage? The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* welcome all women who are practicing Roman Catholics, and who are Irish by birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the mother of a junior member. A new division is starting in the Huntersville, Denver and Mooresville areas. To learn more, contact Janice Donahue at (704) 249-9161 after 7 p.m. weekdays or e-mail ladydonahue@gmail.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — "St. Paul on Questions of Human Life, Marriage, and Society" will be presented by Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of Fordham University July 1 and 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd. This event, sponsored by the Respect Life program and Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services, is free. Registration is required. To register, call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org to register. For more information, go online to www.cssnc.org.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Episcopal calendar

June 24 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

June 25 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa

June 26 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Brevard

June 28 (9 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe

Jobs, small business credit key for recovery, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More decent, productive employment and more credit for small- and medium-sized businesses are the best strategies for recovering from the global economic crisis, said the chief Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva.

There are real "fears that the coming years will be characterized by 'labor intensive restructuring' and a 'jobless recovery'" in which large corporations and stock markets will bounce back, but from which the world's workers will not benefit, said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

People need to turn the current crisis into an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of protecting people's dignity in the work world, "to encourage a lifestyle of sobriety, solidarity and responsibility; and to direct all economic activities to the common good," he said.

The archbishop made his comments June 10 during the International Labor Organization's annual international labor conference June 3-19 in Geneva.

As the global economy experiences its deepest downturn in 50 years, labor analysts predict the number of jobless persons around the world will increase by 50 million people, he said.

The archbishop said it was "an ethical requirement" for the international labor group to promote a "Global Jobs

Pact" to stimulate job creation alongside other measures taken by world leaders to stimulate the economy and credit markets. The world has lost the sense that true value is derived from human labor, not just capital, he said.

"Productive work is at the base of the real economy rather than (financial) speculation that is prompted solely by greed for profit," he said.

The two avenues toward economic recovery that would be most effective and offer greater respect for human dignity would be to protect and expand employment and sustain small and medium-sized businesses, he said.

Smaller businesses are "particularly penalized by the severe credit crunch" today, he said, but since they account for such a large share of employment, inappropriate credit restrictions against them should be lifted so as to better support these firms.

"Decent work, then, is the main road to overcome the current crisis, a strategy that as well can create the conditions for a stable and lasting economic development," he said.

Local and national economies must look for ways to invest in people's creativity and talents, he said, and look for new "forms of participation in the system of production."

Mass before meeting



CNS PHOTO BY BAHRAM MARK SOBHANI

Bishops celebrate Mass at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Texas, June 17. The Mass came before the start of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting. Bishop Peter J. Jugis is attending the meeting.

Music minister arrested, pastor resigns

ASHEVILLE — In recent weeks, St. Eugene Church in Asheville has been dealing with a resignation and a termination among its parish leaders.

Father John Schneider, pastor, resigned June 9 after being arrested and charged with obstruction of justice in a case involving a former parish employee.

The obstruction charge related to the deletion of files on the home computer of Paul Berrell, former parish music minister. In late May, Berrell was charged with taking indecent liberties with a minor. He was fired from his position shortly after his arrest, and is currently being held in the Buncombe County jail.

Bishop Jugis traveled to Asheville to meet with Father Schneider on the day of his resignation June 9, and with parish lay leaders and the Asheville Catholic School principal. The bishop said the sacramental life of the parish would not be interrupted by the events.

Jesuit Father Bill Ameche, in residence at the church until the end of July, will celebrate Masses. The parish pastoral council, in conjunction with Father Ameche and Deacon Michael Zboyovski, held a prayer and listening session at the parish June 17.

Bishop Jugis will celebrate a 7 p.m. healing Mass at the church June 23. A new pastor will be announced soon.

Club helps children find, perform community service work

YOUTHS, from page 1

for sixth- through eighth-grade students of the parish to perform service work.

"This began in response to a need of the kids. They are required to do service work for school," said Poli. "It's much easier for high school students to find projects, but both the (younger) students and their parents were at a loss for ways to fill these service hours."

Poli's solution was to join the needs of the students and the community. The club has fostered relationships with local agencies.

"What we do is live by Mother Teresa's motto, 'Do small things with great love,'" said Poli.

At Christmas, club members spend a day purchasing presents for ARC of Buncombe County, which assists developmentally and intellectually challenged persons. During the year, the students hold a fundraiser to help the Asheville Humane Society, wrap Thanksgiving food donation boxes for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and work with the homebound of the parish.

Poli, adult volunteer Sheryl Peyton and several club members met June 6

to work at the church repairing books, cleaning classrooms and taking inventory of the supplies.

Two members, Patsy Hogoboom and Sylvia Porach, repaired books in their first service project with the club. As rising sixth-graders, they joined with Madeleine Hiriak, a veteran member, to scour the texts for damage.

"This is a good way to help the community and church," said Hiriak, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, for which service hours are a requirement.

"This is a nice, fun way to do this," she said.

"I'm a polio survivor and can't do some of the physical activities. With these projects, I can be personally involved," said Poli, while directing members Amy Rogers and Mary Elizabeth Williams, who gather supplies left in the classrooms throughout the year before beginning inventory.

As the members break for a snack, Poli acknowledged that the work they do provides joy — not only for the recipients, but also for the volunteers.

"They are learning how to be a community, and how a community can support a parish and a neighborhood," she said.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Madeleine Hiriak, Sylvia Porach and Patsy Hogoboom, members of the Mother Teresa Club at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, repair books at the church June 6.



COURTESY PHOTO

Praying for life

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, stands with a poster charting the number of rosaries prayed by parishioners for the sanctity of life during the month of May.

Parishioners exceeded the 7,500 goal by praying 10,212 rosaries, 1,430 of which were prayed by students, faculty and staff of St. Matthew School.

Encountering marriage



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Kurt Fohn, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, and Father Paul Lehman, a retired priest from Newark, N.J., are pictured with attendees of BLD Charlotte's third annual marriage encounter at the Blowing Rock Conference Center May 8-10. Father Lehman is district spiritual director for BLD, Filipino for "open to the spirit of God," a charismatic group made up largely of Filipino-Americans.



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.
Department of Philosophy, Fordham University

will speak in the Diocese of Charlotte
on June 29, July 1 and July 2

The event topics and locations are presented below.
Please visit www.cssnc.org for event synopses.

The Catholic Understanding of Human Rights and the Common Good

Monday, June 29, 10:30 am - 12 pm, 1st Floor, Diocesan Pastoral Center
Address: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, 28203 (Visitor parking in adjacent satellite lot)

Monday, June 29, 7 - 8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, St. Francis Hall
Address: 208 Seventh Ave. West, Hendersonville, 28791

St. Paul on Questions of Human Life, Marriage, and Society

Wed., July 1, Parts I & Part II: 10 am - 3 pm, 1st Floor, Diocesan Pastoral Center
Address: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, 28203 (Visitor parking in adjacent satellite lot)

Wed., July 1, Part I: 6:30 - 8:30 pm & Thursday, July 2, Part II: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Our Lady of Mercy Church. Address: 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, 27103



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from St. Louis U. and a M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has received both the Graduate Student Faculty of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Student Faculty of the Year Award from Fordham University.

Sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace and Respect Life Program of Catholic Social Services. Please call 704-370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org if you plan to attend. Lunch will be provided at the June 29 and July 1 daytime events for all who register to attend in advance.

VOCATIONS

Father Roberts ordained a priest of the diocese

PRIEST, from page 1

changes and perfects a priest," said Bishop Jugis, thus making "the commandment of the Lord possible — to love as he loves, to serve as he serves — because his love and grace have first been given to the priest, to purify and perfect him."

"Through the Lord's sanctifying grace, you become a sacrament of Christ the High Priest, capable of acting in the Person of Christ," Bishop Jugis told Deacon Roberts. "You are consecrated as a true priest of the New Testament to serve Christ the teacher, priest and shepherd."

"It was a powerful thing," said Father Roberts reflecting on the moment Bishop Jugis and priests of the diocese laid their hands on him during the Mass.

"My whole life has been preparation for this," he said.

Father Benjamin Roberts

Father Roberts was born in Charlotte and grew up in Lancaster, S.C., where he attended a Lutheran church.

Following high school, he began training to be a Lutheran minister. He studied Lutheran theology under the guidance of Rev. Andrew Weisner, campus pastor and chaplain at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory.

Rev. Weisner introduced him to Father Conrad Kimbrough, a retired priest for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Around the time that I started thinking about converting to Catholicism, I started thinking about the priesthood," recalled Father Roberts.

"Father Kimbrough was really helpful in helping to discern my vocation, not only by talking, but by showing what it means to be a priest," he said.

Father Roberts was received into the Catholic Church and confirmed by Father Peter Fitzgibbons at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville Oct. 30, 1999.

After a year of working in a soup kitchen in inner city Chicago, Father Roberts entered the seminary under the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Buffalo, N.Y., where he earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy from D'Youville College.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priesthood candidate Benjamin Roberts lies prostrate before the altar during his ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 6. The congregation joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis (center) and visiting priests, deacons and seminarians in prayer for the church, its people and the priesthood candidate.

Next he entered his novitiate, a yearlong spiritual retreat in preparation for vows. During that time, Father Roberts discerned the call to become a parish priest. He left the novitiate in March 2005 and in August began formation for the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa.

Father Roberts has been assigned to St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

He said that he is looking forward most to performing sacramental ministry. "I love administering the sacraments," said Father Roberts, particularly "celebrating Mass and celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation."

"I always carry a purple stole," he said, a practice encouraged by one of his mentors. "The sacrament of reconciliation is that important."

Ordination Mass

Concelebrants of the ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral included Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father Christopher

Gober, diocesan vocations director; Father Robert McDermott, dean of men at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; and priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte. Also in attendance was Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

During the rite of ordination, Father Roberts promised to fulfill the office of the priesthood. Kneeling, he placed his hands between Bishop Jugis' hands in a promise of obedience to him and to his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the church, its people and the priesthood candidate as he lay prostrate before the altar.

During the rite's most solemn moment, Father Roberts knelt before Bishop Jugis, who laid his hands on his head. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidate and prayed the prayer of consecration.

Father Roberts was then vested with a stole and chasuble, outer garments of the priestly office. Bishop Jugis anointed his hands with sacred chrism and he was then presented with a chalice and paten, signifying his role as celebrant of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained Father Roberts then joined his brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening a new chapter in his life.

"Christ's earthly ministry is

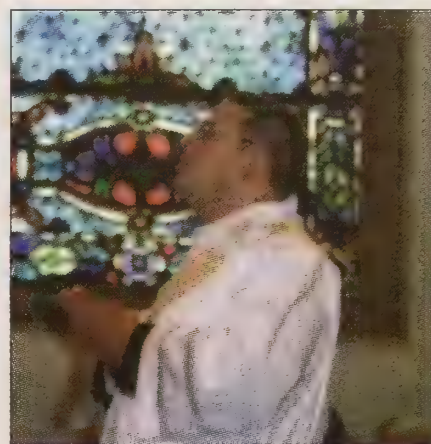


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Father Benjamin Roberts is pictured during his ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 6.

continued in the priest," said Father Roberts. "That is a truly humbling experience."

"It is in this beautiful experience of the great mercy of God that he has called me to share in his life in this way," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

SEE MORE PICS

More photos of the ordination are online at www.charlottediocese.org.



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Peaceful reflections

Contemplative living, nonviolence explored at seminar

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — The life and legacy of Trappist Father Thomas Merton were explored during a daylong seminar on peace and nonviolence.

Father Merton was a man who left "the solitude of the monastery and became the conscience of the peace movement in the '60s," said J. Patrick Mahon during his presentation at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley May 30.

Mahon, a member of Pax Christi USA and peace activist, focused on Father Merton's spiritual writings during his presentation at the seminar, entitled "Contemplative Living and Nonviolence: Thomas Merton."

"I was always an 'in-your-face' activist," said Mahon. "The contemplative grounding in Merton is making me more mellow."

More than 30 people attended the seminar.

"We want to do anything that would help the people," said Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, director of Living Waters.

"We feel as Augustinians, our ministry is to open any thoughts that can include the spiritual part of a Catholic," he said.

Father Merton was used as a prime example for contemplative living and the practice of nonviolence to achieve a path to understanding others and working toward peace.

Born in France in 1915, Father Merton's experiences during World War II and the loss of his parents brought about a search for purpose. In 1941 at age 26, he left a rather wayward life behind to join the Trappist monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky.

He was soon recognized as one of America's foremost writers on spirituality, following the 1948 publication of his best-selling autobiography, "The Seven Storey Mountain."

After achieving fame for his writings, Father Merton later admitted there were several things, particularly in "The Seven Storey Mountain," he wished he could rewrite. As his contemplative years continued, said Mahon, Father Merton's

thoughts took on deeper understanding and compassion for his fellow man.

Father Merton realized the contemplative life of a Christian monk is not meant to center on an individual's spiritual state. Instead, it is meant to focus on the larger, contemporary concerns of the world.

His belief that nonviolence was a necessary way of life grew more certain, said Mahon, and his works and passion for peace found ready followers among a generation filled with conflicting feelings about an ever-shrinking world during a time of global tension and an unpopular war.

"There are a lot of parallels between the Cold War of the '50s and '60s and today with modern terrorism," said Mahon.

But Father Merton was not an absolute pacifist, noted Mahon. He said the monk admitted "I can see situations where we must defend ourselves."

It was during his time in Kentucky that Father Merton reached an epiphany on a street corner, said Mahon. Observing the activity and daily lives of those around him, Father Merton realized it was in the everyday encounters with people that Christ was ever present.

"We must recognize we are all one with God, in that ground of love, ground of being," said Mahon, reflecting on the teachings of Merton. "We must be aware of the evil in ourselves and work on what we have."

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in Hayesville, was involved in organizing the seminar.

"It's important to set aside a day to reflect," said Father Kloster.

"We need to apply these teachings to issues of our own day, not only to the violence of war, but also to such things as domestic violence. We need to see the significance of nonviolence and move more in that direction," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Living Waters Catholic Retreat Center, visit www.catholicretreat.org or call (828) 926-3833.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER FOUNDATION

Trappist Father Thomas Merton is pictured with the Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, in a 1968 photo.

Pastoral Assignments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following pastoral assignments for the Diocese of Charlotte.

APPOINTMENTS OF PASTORS

Effective Feb. 2

Capuchin Franciscan Father Nicholas Mormando
From: Outside the diocese
To: Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Effective March 3

Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz
From: Outside the diocese
To: Pastor, Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

Effective July 7

Father John Allen
From: Dean of Men, School of Theology, Pontifical College Josephinum, Ohio
To: Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

Father Julio Dominguez

Continuing as: Administrator, Hispanic ministry, Central Region
To: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir

Jesuit Father Patrick Earl

From: Outside the diocese
To: Pastor, St. Peter Church, Charlotte

Father Patrick Hoare

From: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville
To: Pastor, St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Father Thomas Kessler

From: Pastoral Formation Director, School of Divinity, St. Paul Seminary, Minn.
To: Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

Father Matthew Leonard

From: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir
To: Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa

Father Frank Seabo

From: Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa
To: Pastor, St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler

Effective Aug. 1

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Paul Dechant
From: Outside the diocese
To: Pastor, Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

APPOINTMENTS OF PAROCHIAL VICARS

Effective July 7

Father Brandon Jones
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Father Benjamin Roberts

From: Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

OTHER

Effective Feb. 18

Redemptorist Father Van Cong Tran
From: Outside the diocese
To: In residence, St. James the Greater Church, Concord

Effective July 1

Franciscan Father John McDowell
From: Outside the diocese
To: St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville

Effective July 7

Father Peter Pham
From: In residence, St. Joseph Church, Charlotte
To: In residence, St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Father John Pagel

From: Pastor, St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler
To: Sabbatical at his request

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html.

Bishop Jugis blesses new parish activity center

CENTER, from page 1

water during the ceremony.

In his remarks, the bishop said the eucharistic celebration, in the church "just above you," is the center of parish life.

The Eucharist is to be lived in fellowship in the center and in the wider world, he said.

The bishop then headed up the sidewalk to meet with the 13 young people about to be confirmed that day. Parishioners celebrated, complete with cake, in the center after the confirmation Mass.

Work on the 4,000-square-foot parish center began about three months after the church was dedicated, as money became available to complete the project. It includes a gathering space for 250 to 300 people, a kitchen, conference room and two classrooms.

Parishioners did much of the work,

installing dry wall and flooring, and painting the rooms. They made two trips to pick up a conference table and 10 upholstered high-backed swivel chairs that the Catholic Conference Center near Hickory donated.

The parish's Women's Circle held several fundraising events to provide kitchen equipment.

Father Larry LoMonaco, pastor, said later that he was "very relieved" that the center is finished.

"It turned out even better than I expected," he said.

St. John the Evangelist Church's next construction phase will involve the building of a bell tower containing an elevator, thus allowing inside access between the church and parish center.

A parishioner who is an architect has agreed to design the bell tower free of charge.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the new parish activity center at St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville June 12.

Celebrating with cake



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis cuts a cake commemorating the 26th anniversary of his priestly ordination June 12 in the parish activity center at St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville.

Constructing a church



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the frame of the new St. Pius X Church under construction in Greensboro. Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor, were among those taking part in the February groundbreaking ceremony.

Mass for the parish's 1,248 families currently is celebrated in the gymnasium of St. Pius X School, as the original church was knocked down in December to make way for the new \$6.5 million church, which will feature century-old stained glass windows and other religious items salvaged from older churches.

Barring periods of inclement weather, the church is expected to be completed by spring 2010 to coincide with the parish's 50th anniversary.

Confirming faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured with the 25 youths who received the sacrament of confirmation at Holy Spirit Church in Denver May 29. Also pictured is Father Carmen Malacari, pastor; Deacon James Atkinson; faith formation teachers Kate D'Amato, Doreen Lehman, Sandy vonDohlen, Diane Hagens, Charmaine Hilgert and Linda Krehnbrink; altar servers; and fourth-degree Knights of Columbus. Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and first Communion.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Confirmandi gather with Bishop Peter J. Jugis outside St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville just before the confirmation Mass, June 12. Pictured are (from left) Dylan Brucki, Elizabeth Mendoza, Alvaro Leon, Anahi Martinez, Javier Ramirez, Becky Mendoza, Christian Constance, Bishop Jugis, Amy Arellano, Hilda Rios, Annalise Massey, Christina Harvey, Anthony Huber and Karen Gonzales.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Diocesan schools working to achieve new level of accreditation

CHARLOTTE — Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte are embarking on a process to acquire a new level of accreditation.

The 18 schools are seeking District Accreditation, a relatively new form of accreditation available to school systems through AdvancED.

AdvancED is the unified organization of the Commission on International and Transregional Accreditation, North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), through which Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte are currently accredited.

Formed in 2006, AdvancED represents 27,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and in 65 countries worldwide and educating 15 million students.

The accreditation process is designed to help schools and districts continuously improve through a unified, clear and powerful approach, according to AdvancED's Web site. The process is based on a five-year term accreditation

that provides ongoing external checks, support and feedback, it says.

While all 18 diocesan schools have been evaluated regularly by SACS CASI and have successfully maintained full accreditation, AdvancED's District Accreditation adds additional requirements and sets a higher standard, according to Mike Ford, marketing director for the Diocese of Charlotte's Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system.

"Achieving accreditation at the district level will verify that, as a diocese, we set a high standard for all of our schools and we have plans in place to ensure continued improvement," he said. "It will also ensure, at the same time, that all of our individual schools continue their levels of commitment to excellence with a plan in place for continued improvement."

A diocesan steering committee comprised of school and diocesan staff has been formed to work with the schools toward achieving District Accreditation by spring of 2010.

"It is another step toward making our Catholic schools in the diocese the best that they can be," said Ford.

Winning words



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Finnigan, a seventh-grader at St. Mark School in Huntersville, holds her award certificate for receiving first place in the junior high division of Catholic Social Services' essay contest. CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte sponsored the essay contest, with the theme "Being the Heart and Hands of Jesus," in diocesan Catholic schools for CSS Awareness Week April 15-May 3. Geri King, CSS Charlotte Regional Office director, presented the award and delivered pizza for Mary's class

May 7. Pictured are (from left) religion teacher Carol Earl, Mary, King, Principal Debbie Butler and Assistant Principal Anne Fulmer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-grader Fraser Welsford and third-grader Bryan Bell of St. Pius X School in Greensboro hold their award certificates for receiving first place and honorable mention, respectively, in the elementary school division of CSS's essay contest. Pictured are (from left) Richard Von Stamwitz, CSS Greensboro Office board of directors; Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church; and Principal Anne Knapke.

Bringing the Abbey to the city

Belmont Abbey College to offer adult classes in Charlotte this fall

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A new option for Catholic adults seeking continuing education is coming to Charlotte.

Belmont Abbey College will begin offering classes for their Adult Degree Program at Charlotte Catholic High School beginning this fall.

The program will offer degrees in business and education, and plans are underway to offer a liberal studies major beginning January 2010. A criminal justice major is another possibility.

"At last, here's an opportunity for Catholic adults who want to earn their college degrees and improve their lives to do so at a college that shares their Catholic values," said Ed Jones, marketing director at Belmont Abbey College.

"Our program allows them to get their degrees by coming to classes just two nights a week," he said.

Classes will be offered in eight-week sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The idea for expanding to the Charlotte market came after a recent surge of growth within the program, which originated at the Sacred Heart College campus in 1979.

"The Adult Degree Program had around 380 students in 2007," said Lucas Lamadrid, vice president for enrollment management and student affairs at Belmont Abbey College. "Right now, the program has around 760 students."

The goal for the inaugural class at the Charlotte campus is 200 students. As of June 14, 109 applications had been received, according to Jones.

"The Charlotte campus is really exciting for us," said Bill Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College in a recent interview with David Hains,

communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I think this is a great opportunity for people to do something that is very close by and hopefully very convenient for them," he said.

Charlotte is a highly-competitive market for adult degree programs, but this is the first program offered by a Catholic college.

"There are eight to 10 well-established adult degree programs offered within a 10-mile radius of Charlotte Catholic High School, so we knew we had to do and say something different to stand out," said Jones.

"What better way to do that than to subtly emphasize our Catholic, Benedictine educational heritage of educating the whole person," he said.

It is that focus on educating the whole person through mind, body and spirit that sets this program apart from the others.

"We follow the Catholic intellectual tradition which says there is no conflict between faith and reason," said Thierfelder.

"We stand for the Catholic faith, we follow the teachings of the church and we do it with joy," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

An Adult Degree Program information session will be held at the Charlotte campus at Charlotte Catholic High School July 15 at 7 p.m. For more information on the program at Belmont Abbey College, visit www.belmontabbeycollege.edu.



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Sunday, July 19 – Friday, July 24

Joan Cook – Old Testament

Old Testament presentations will be Sunday from 7-9 pm, and Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:45-9:30 pm.

Dan Harrington – New Testament

New Testament presentations will be Monday through Friday mornings from 8:45-11:45 am.

For further information, please contact The Oratory.

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Honoring graduates



COURTESY PHOTO

Graduates Adam Morgan, Veronica Hammons, Bonnie McCurry, Crista Dolan, Philip Boyers and Andrew Black are pictured during an end-of-year awards ceremony at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville May 28. The 132 graduates attended a baccalaureate Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point May 28 prior to their commencement ceremony at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem May 30. Members of the graduating class received more than \$9 million in scholarships.

Summer reading



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem sort and pack the more than 900 books they collected during a book drive in May. The books were donated to a Winston-Salem public school for students who have no books to read over the summer months.

Senior ceremonies

No break from caring



COURTESY PHOTO

Students hold reminders of ways to care for the Earth during an assembly on the last day of classes at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem June 8. During the assembly, faculty reminded the students of all they had done during the school year to care for the planet, and what they can do during the summer break to continue that care.

Senior ceremonies



COURTESY PHOTO

The graduates of St. Michael School in Gastonia gather outside of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia May 31. The group was recognized during Mass and then attended an awards ceremony in the parish hall. Pictured are McKenzie Kiser, Chris Meade, Jite Sido, Kaley Falls, Luke Watts, Ashly Cassaro, Gina Ruden, Jack Rosemond, Maria Manjarrez, Caroline Maier, Emily Kiser, Daniel Nelli, Cody Jones, Maureen Wilkinson, Kaleb Rostmeyer, Sam Pearce and Christian Gonzalez.



COURTESY PHOTO

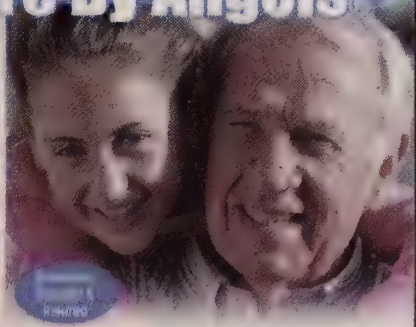
Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, stands with graduates of Immaculate Heart of Mary School on graduation day June 4. Father Kelly celebrated Mass for the students; an awards celebration followed. Pictured with Father Kelly are Joseph Angel, Marina Black, Grace Bunemann, Gary Dyer, Mackenzie Evans, Grant Fatyol, Scott Fatyol, Jackson Fetner, Gwendolyn Gies, Matthew Graney, Connor Greene, Sean Hamacher, Robert Hocutt, Alexandra Ilderton, Matthew Krawczyk, Benjamin Labra, Rafael Leon, Joshua Moore, Gregory Redden, Nicholas Ring, Molly Sheehan, Michael Tepedino, Michael Verdi, Taylor Vest and Alyssa Walker.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Book says young women attracted to orders whose members wear habits

BY ROXANNE KING
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



DENVER — While the last 40 years have seen an overall drop in the numbers of women entering religious life, a new book released by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious says orders that are more visibly countercultural seem to be flourishing.

The council represents the superiors of more than 100 religious communities of sisters whose members wear an identifiable religious habit. A canonically approved organization founded in 1992 to promote religious life in the United States, the council notes that the average age of its member communities' sisters is under 35.

The book, titled "The Foundations of Religious Life: Revisiting the Vision," is a project of the council. It explores why the orders represented by the council are gaining numbers and how they are living out the vision of consecrated life described by the Second Vatican Council.

The book, released May 16, consists of essays written by six religious sisters representing five orders. The topics they address are: religious consecration, the spousal bond, the threefold response to vows, communion in community, and mission.

The Washington-based council is one of the two major organizations representing heads of women's religious orders in the United States. The other is the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

"We wanted to write something that says, 'This is who we are and why we live this way,'" said Sister Prudence Allen, a Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma, Mich., who wrote the book's chapter on community life.

The other authors are: Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, a founding member of the Sisters of Life; Sister Mary Elizabeth Wusinich, also a Sister of Life; Sister Paula Jean Miller, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist; Sister Mary Dominic Pitts, a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tenn.; and Sister M. Maximilia Um, a Sister of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George.

The introduction and conclusion were written by two canon lawyers, Sister Mary Judith O'Brien, formerly of St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, and Sister Mary Nika Schaumber. Both are Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Mich.

"The book seeks to answer the question of why religious institutes are needed in today's society," Sister Allen told the Denver Catholic Register, newspaper of the Denver Archdiocese.

"We're hoping everyone will read it and love it," she added with a laugh.

Sister Allen is a professor

of philosophy at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver and author of the multivolume work "The Concept of Woman."

Other religious sisters of the Denver Archdiocese who belong to the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious joined Sister Allen's interview with the Denver Catholic Register to discuss their enthusiasm for the book.

Young women want to be challenged to live the religious life, said Nashville Dominican Sister Mary Gertrude, principal of St. Vincent de Paul School in Denver. The Nashville Dominicans are among the orders experiencing the greatest success attracting new vocations, according to news reports.

"It's very much a radical call to live and give yourself completely to Christ," she said. "There is a real identify to who we are and what we are about."

"We want to put religious life in front of young women today," said Mother Paul Magyar, superior of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who operate Mullen Home for the Aged in Denver.

She said the new book also should affirm existing vocations.

"I think it will help to strengthen the religious vocation that is already there," she added. The book shows that "we are faithful and happy in our vocation."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 28, 2009

June 28, Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
- 2) 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

God's healing powers evident in world

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In today's Gospel we read about the woman healed of 12 years of hemorrhaging by touching Jesus' clothes.

The passage from Mark 5 also tells us how Jesus brought back to life the daughter of the synagogue official, though the crowd ridiculed him, even as he entered her home to wake her from what they said was death, but what Jesus himself spoke of as sleep.

Catholics believe that Jesus continues his work of physical healing through the sacraments and in answer to the prayers of believers.

The church believes this so strongly that to certify that healings are of a miraculous nature, it has established an elaborate and tight process using medical and other authorities to rule out other possible explanations.

But there are lesser miracles, interventions by God that will never be subject to such scrutiny, but are nonetheless evidence of his continuing care, demonstrating his active presence in our lives.

Many of us have seen these lesser

"miracles" in our own lives. We pray with someone who has a back problem and later they say they felt their back pop into place during the prayer.

We join in prayer with others and find that an older gentleman we have prayed over experienced a long period of relief from joint pain and stiffness.

Or we have felt the benefit of prayer, as I did, during and after the first of my two brain surgeries in November of 2003.

Two days after my neurosurgeon removed an egg-sized hemangioblastoma (benign) from the sensitive skull base region of my brain, he came into my room to find me sitting up in bed, having a lively conversation with my wife.

The doctor and his assistant both wore bemused looks as they approached my bed in intensive care.

In answer to my question, "Did I do well?" he responded, "You did spectacular!"

And while I am grateful to my surgeon for the four hours he operated on me, I'm even more grateful to God and the large network of people who were praying for me and my family, for the rather amazing recovery that followed.

Prior to and after the surgery, my wife and I felt the prayer that surrounded us. It was like being surrounded by concentric circles of love, palpable love.

God's grace does become manifest in his world. It is, after all, his world.

Questions:

Have you experienced God's healing touch in your own life? Why do you think God would want to continue to demonstrate his power to an unbelieving world?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction'" (Mark 5:34).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 21-27

Sunday (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Job 38:1, 8-11, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Mark 4:35-41; Monday, Genesis 12:1-9, Matthew 7:1-5; Tuesday, Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; Wednesday (The Nativity of John the Baptist), Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; Thursday, Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16, Matthew 7:21-29; Friday, Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22, Matthew 8:1-4; Saturday (St. Cyril of Alexandria), Genesis 18:1-15, Luke 1:46-50, 53-55, Matthew 8:5-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28-JULY 4

Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24, 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43; Monday (St. Peter and St. Paul), Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; Tuesday (The First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church), Genesis 19:15-29, Matthew 8:23-27; Wednesday (Bl. Junipero Serra), Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Matthew 8:28-34; Thursday, Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; Friday (St. Thomas), Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; Saturday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal), Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9:14-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5-11

Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 2:2-5, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Mark 6:1-6; Monday (St. Maria Goretti), Genesis 28:10-22, Matthew 9:18-26; Tuesday, Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; Wednesday, Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24, Matthew 10:1-7; Thursday (St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions), Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5, Matthew 10:7-15; Friday, Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; Saturday (St. Benedict), Genesis 49:29-32, 50:15-26, Matthew 10:24-33.



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'God on the Go'

Catholic combines faith, high-tech savvy to invent new Bible format

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — One of the oldest and most read books in the world now has a new, high-tech look. And it weighs only 5 grams, or one-hundredth of a pound.

"God on the Go" is a USB flash drive containing the complete Bible in the New Revised Standard Version or the New Testament of the New American Bible. It is currently available only for PCs but a Mac-compatible version is expected out this summer.

Inventor Mark Mastroianni, a member of St. Edna Church in Arlington Heights, Ill., said the idea for "God on the Go" came to him in prayer when he was asking God how he could bring together his Catholic faith and his background in technology and product development.

"Why not combine the Bible with commonly used and readily accessible technological platforms?" he recalled thinking.

After months of research and talks with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which holds the U.S. copyright on the New American Bible, "God on the Go" was born.

Mastroianni was pleased to learn that the device also offers the ecologically aware a "green" alternative to the printed Bible, since the thin pages of most Bibles require the use of a specialty ink that is "very toxic to users and in the manufacturing process."

"God on the Go" also has special appeal for the millennial generation, no longer used to reading the printed word and instead accustomed to getting all their information in front of a computer screen, he said.

The USB flash drive offers a number of advantages over a hefty version of the printed Bible, Mastroianni said.

It can be carried around on a key chain, and because the Bible only takes up 10 percent of the space on the flash drive, the user can add his or her own photos, songs or important documents to carry along with the Bible.

It also includes a verse/subject index, allows users to bookmark favorite passages and can take users directly to the daily New American Bible readings on the USCCB Web site.

Mastroianni worked with Dominican Father Jordan Kelly, director of the Office of Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Chicago, on the project "almost from day one" and pilot tested "God on the Go" with a group of students at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights during the fall semester of 2008.

The "feature that got the greatest response" from the 200 sophomores who tested it, according to Mastroianni, was a "mini-concordance" which gives users the ability to scroll through a list of feelings and to be linked to a Bible passage relevant to that emotion.

"I never thought the Bible could be this cool," he reported one student as saying.

Through www.4Marks.com, a Catholic social networking site, users of "God on the Go" also can trade their lists of favorite Bible passages with their friends.

The device can also be customized for group sales to parishes, schools and universities, Mastroianni said.

"The face of the physical drive can be etched" with a name or logo, he added.

Mastroianni hopes to have the full New American Bible available on a "God on the Go" device by sometime next year, pending the U.S. bishops' and Vatican approval of a new translation of the Old Testament.



CNS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB ROLLER

Pictured is a "God on the Go" USB flash drive containing the complete Bible in the New Revised Standard Version or the New Testament of the New American Bible.

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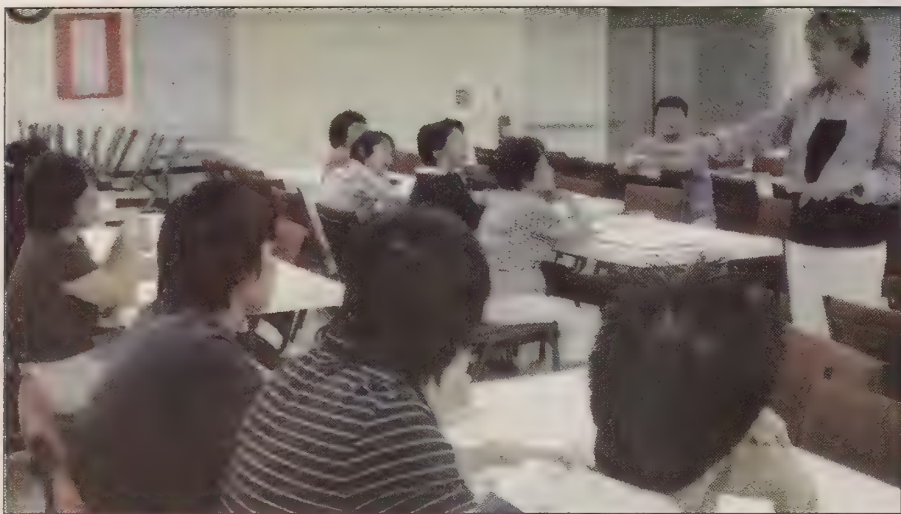
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Forming catechists



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Donna Smith, faith formation director at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, leads a catechist formation session at St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte June 16. Approximately 40 catechists and parishioners attended the English-language session. The diocesan Faith Formation Office sponsors a competency-based catechist recognition and formation process for catechists in parishes throughout the diocese.

First Communion



COURTESY PHOTO

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy, is pictured with Cali Edgerton and Brenda Garcia, the two children who received the sacrament of first Communion June 14. The Eucharist is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and confirmation.

Celebrating Christ



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, holds a monstrance during a bilingual Corpus Christi procession June 14. The procession stopped at three outdoor altars on the church property for Benediction. A eucharistic procession is a traditional feature of the celebration of the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Grade School Program

St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Religious Education for its grade school faith formation program. Candidate must have a degree in Religious Education or a related area, and have experience in parish work.

Please send your resume and references to St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Attention: Personnel, 1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC 28213.

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Saint Egbert Catholic School in Morehead City, North Carolina, serves the students of Carteret County which is located on the pristine Crystal Coast situated on the south east coast. The Crystal Coast is an 85-mile stretch of beautiful scenery, friendly towns, rich maritime history, and abundant outdoor recreation.

Position: St. Egbert Catholic Church seeks an experienced educational leader to serve as principal for its K-5th grade school beginning the 2009-2010 school year. Saint Egbert Catholic School (enrollment capacity of 150) has provided 53 years of quality Catholic education for Carteret County. The applicant must possess the following qualifications:

Faith: Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

Education: A Master's Degree in School Administration or equivalent and hold, or be able to hold, a North Carolina Administrator's License.

Experience: Notable academic experience and 5 or more years as administrator/principal/assistant principal or equivalent experience.

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FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin carries a monstrance at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point June 14.

Perpetual adoration anniversary celebrated

EUCCHARIST, from page 1

Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

"We are celebrating the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist," Bishop Curlin said during his homily.

Perpetual adoration is the practice of exposing the Eucharist 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Volunteers are recruited from within the community and beyond to be present in the chapel at all hours of the day and night.

"A lot of our residents participate, but it also brings in a lot of people from off campus," said Edward Cordick,

Pennybyrn public relations director. "It makes this a very special place."

"We feel Christ's living presence through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament," said Sister Philo, a Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in High Point.

"It is a constant reminder of Christ, and a place where one comes to receive, healing," said Tom Burke, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, who has been volunteering at the chapel for 15 years.

"Contrary to public opinion, there are a lot of religious people willing to keep the chapel manned 24/7," he said.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass and led a eucharistic procession there to celebrate the 10th anniversary in 2004. Bishop Curlin said he was happy to return for the 15th anniversary.

"I believe the perpetual adoration chapel has enriched our diocese with immeasurable blessings," said Bishop Curlin in an interview. "It was an honor to officiate at its beginning, and an honor to see its continued growth."

"The challenge for us today," he said during his homily, "is not just to see Jesus in the tabernacle, but to bring him out with us to all the suffering people of the world."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

SEE MORE PICS

More photos of the 15th anniversary are online at www.charlottediocese.org.



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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The perpetual adoration chapel at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point is pictured June 14.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Contrary action to Christ's teachings

Abortionist's murder in a church on Pentecost is sacrilegious

A notorious abortion provider was shot to death while ushering at a service in his Lutheran church on Pentecost Sunday by a person who, believing abortion is murder, found it right to murder the abortionist.

While holding no love for Dr. George Tiller, the notorious abortion clinic operator in Wichita, Kan., his murder in a church, especially on this day, is sacrilegious.

It is an insult to the pro-life cause and will pollute the debate at a time when the cause seems to be gaining in public favor.

The only way to prevail in a democracy is to win over a plurality of the public. This is where the battle is to be won, not in demonizing the opposition, not in vitriolic name-calling.

This murder was in no way a victory for the pro-life cause, for humanity. That the victim was doing evil things is no justification. The murder was morally and tactically wrong.

Tiller was a leading provider of late-term abortions in his Wichita clinic, which for years was the site of prayer vigils and demonstrations. Protesters blockaded Tiller's clinic during Operation Rescue's "Summer of Mercy" protests during the summer of 1991, and Tiller was shot and wounded in both arms at his clinic in 1993.

The clinic was bombed in June 1986 and was severely vandalized last month.

Just as Tiller was the symbol of the evil of abortion, so his killer will be used as an icon by those who use any excuse to attack religion.

Within hours of his death, the blogosphere was filled with the unmoderated, unmediated and uncharitable comments by those who want to portray the pro-life movement as hypocritical and by those saying Tiller got what he deserved.

Both are wrong.

"Our bishops' conference and all its members have repeatedly and publicly denounced all forms of violence in our society, including abortion as well as the misguided resort to violence by anyone opposed to abortion," said Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chair of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, in a statement.

"Such killing is the opposite of everything we stand for, and everything we want our culture to stand for: respect for the life of each and every human being from its beginning to its natural end," he said.

Yet there are those who still don't get it, such as Randall Terry, founder of

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



Operation Rescue, who was arrested by federal agents during a 1991 protest in front of Tiller's office.

Said Terry: "But even Mr. Tiller, like other murderers, deserved a trial of his peers, and a legal execution, not vigilante justice."

So rather than being killed by an assassin, Terry felt Tiller should have been killed by execution. Where is the respect for life in that statement?

Whether it is by beheading, by suicide bombing or by gunfire, killing for a belief is wrong, especially when the reason is protection of life. Saying Tiller got what was coming to him is as reprehensible as charging religion with killing in God's name.

Contributing to the incendiary language is not helpful.

The 51-year-old assailant was charged with first-degree murder in Tiller's death. More than a decade ago, he became involved with anti-government groups, and then became "very religious in an Old Testament, eye-for-an-eye way," his former wife said.

He and his kind may believe in an eye for an eye. Christ taught to the contrary.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The 'hinge of salvation'

Catholicism has healthy view of flesh, sexuality

Recent legislation proposed in the North Carolina General Assembly reminds Catholics that parents are the primary educators of their children.

The Healthy Youth Act, scheduled to be voted on by the N.C. Senate June 18 and opposed by both Catholic bishops in North Carolina, would mandate comprehensive sexual education for students in N.C. public schools.

While the bishops favor the options of curricula based on abstinence-until-marriage or no sex education at all, it is important to understand that the bishops, and the Catholic Church, do not hold a negative view of sexuality in general.

When parents ponder what to say to their children on matters of sexuality, the first point of clarification should be that human sexuality is very good.

Many Christians, tragically, grow up believing that their bodies are "bad" and are obstacles to spirituality. While desires of the flesh can be disordered, let us not forget that as Christians we believe everything God created is "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

The idea that the human body is bad is actually a heresy, called Manichaeism. The Gnostic prophet Manichaeus condemned the body and all things sexual because he believed the material world was the source of evil.

Our sex-saturated culture has failed to see how valuable the body and sex really are. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The flesh is the hinge of salvation. We believe in God who is creator of the flesh; we believe in the Word made flesh in order to redeem the flesh; we believe in the resurrection

Guest Column

BATRICE ADCOCK
GUEST COLUMNIST



of the flesh ..." (n. 1015).

Indeed, the fact that our God created us and became one of us makes our bodies very special.

As popular Catholic speaker Christopher West likes to say, the Catholic faith is a "very fleshy, sensual religion." We most intimately encounter God through our bodily senses and through material means.

The catechism explains: "As a being at once body and spirit, man expresses and perceives spiritual realities through physical signs and symbols" (n. 1146).

For example, in baptism the body is bathed with water and anointed with oil. In holy Communion, we consume the Body and Blood of Christ. Holy orders are conferred by the laying on of hands. And marriage is consummated by the "one flesh" union of spouses. In this complete gift of themselves, spouses experience a union that is sacred, because it images the love of God.

It is clear, then, that Christianity does not hold a negative view of sexuality.

Adcock is natural family planning program director for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Fathers by the Numbers

Father's Day has been celebrated nationally since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it a permanent observance.

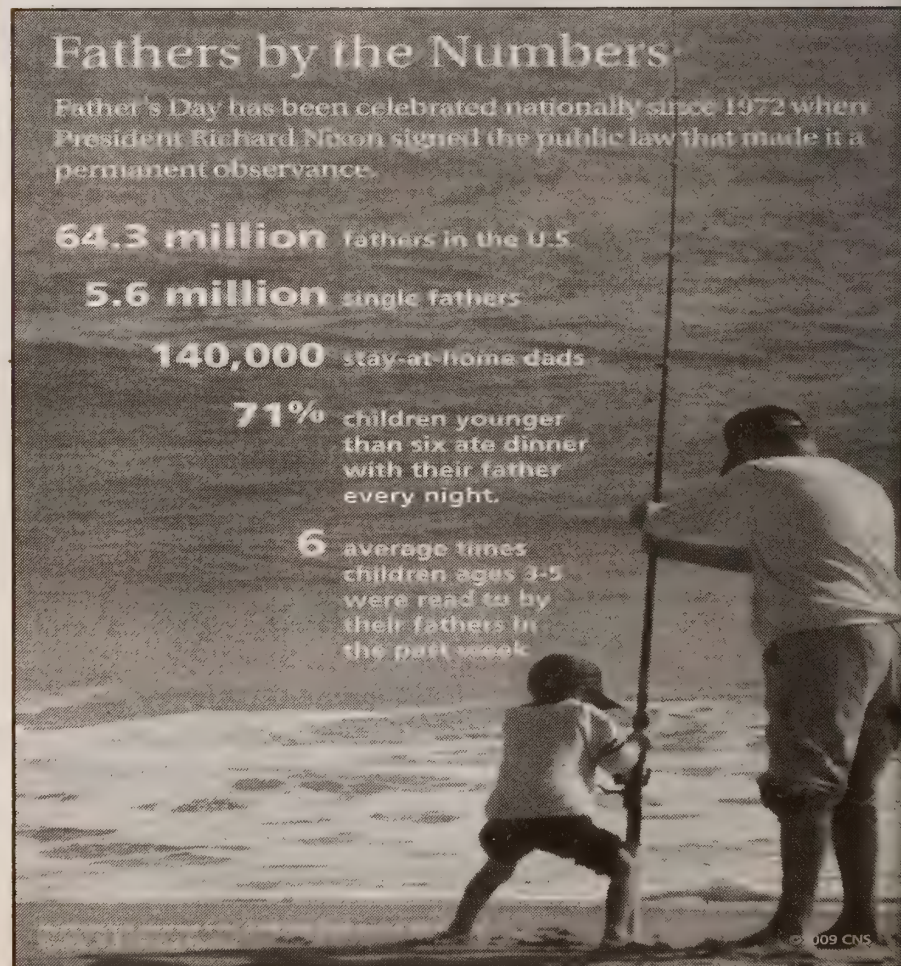
64.3 million fathers in the U.S.

5.6 million single fathers

140,000 stay-at-home dads

71% children younger than six ate dinner with their father every night.

6 average times children ages 3-5 were read to by their fathers in the past week.



Year for Priests important for everyone

We must not forget all that priests do for their flocks

Last weekend I had the honor of attending the priestly ordination of Father Benjamin Roberts.

I love ordinations. They are such joyous occasions, not only for the newly ordained and his family, but for the entire church family.

It is a ceremony that is steeped in tradition and showcases the beauty and solemnity of our faith.

Aside from witnessing the new priest profess his vows, the part that I enjoy most is seeing all of the priests from across the diocese, present on the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. It is a powerful thing to see so many priests standing together, united in prayer.

Our church consists of a unique melding of individuals united as a eucharistic family. We are one in the Body of Christ.

But as members of the church on earth, we are human and, as such, we are flawed and susceptible to the tarnish of sin — priests included.

Unfortunately, the sinful actions of a few have repercussions that fall on the shoulders of the many.

Pope Benedict XVI recently announced that June 19, the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, marks the beginning of the Year for Priests to emphasize the important role of priests in the mission of the church.

In an appearance on a recent episode

of Vatican Television's "Octava Dies," Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, reflected on the upcoming Year for Priests and on the importance of supporting priests through prayer and maintaining spiritual solidarity as a church family.

"If the problem of union with God confronts all Christians, it especially confronts priests, who are sought after by everyone at all times and whose number is diminishing or remains small in the face of all the demands," Father Lombardi observed.

"Obviously, the holiness of priests is first of all their responsibility, but it also concerns the whole community of the faithful. It only takes a few unworthy priests to profoundly harm the credibility of the church," he said.

When members of our church community fall short of our expectations, I am always saddened by those individuals who allow the incident to negatively impact their own faith lives.

The Catholic Church is bigger than any one individual and we must not allow the failings of the few to pull us away from our union with the whole church family.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, we are blessed to have 75 active diocesan priests, 54 religious priests and 25 retired priests.

They serve Mass in parishes every day, hear confessions, anoint the sick,

Some Moore Thoughts

KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER



celebrate marriage and baptize new members into the church. They give talks and attend meetings. They volunteer with our youths and they visit the elderly.

And their desire to do all of this and more stems from a deep and profound calling to love and serve the Lord and his people.

Each has been chosen by God and has accepted the call. Every day they sacrifice their own personal wants and needs for the good of the church and the people they serve.

As laity our role is to support them in their mission to serve the church.

"The spiritual solidarity of the community is a powerful support for their spiritual and apostolic life," Father Lombardi said. "In sum, the Year for Priests is important not only for priests, but for everyone."

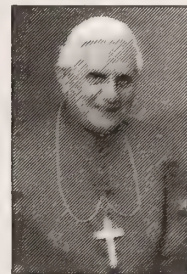
With that in mind, let us not forget the countless sacrifices that our priests make for us on a regular basis. Let us remember that as they continue to guide and shepherd their flocks, they depend on our prayers and continued support.

And let us allow this Year for Priests to serve as an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for our priests here in the Diocese of Charlotte.

People must hear Gospel, praise God in their own language, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gospel message cannot be fully part of people's lives unless it has been faithfully translated into their language and is reflected in their culture, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Talking about the life and mission of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, ninth-century brothers and missionaries, the pope said the two recognized that although the Slavic people of Central Europe had embraced Christianity and were baptized, the people needed to hear the Gospel and praise God in their own language.

At his weekly general audience June 17 in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict said the two brothers not only helped invent an alphabet for the Slavonic language — an alphabet now known as Cyrillic in honor of one of the brothers — but they also carried out a theological battle against what is known as the "Trilingual Heresy."

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue our catechesis on the early Christian writers of the East and the West, we now turn to the brothers Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

They were born in Thessalonica in the early ninth century. Cyril, whose baptismal name was Constantine, was educated at the Byzantine Court, ordained a priest and became an acclaimed teacher of sacred and profane sciences. When his brother Michael became a monk, taking the name of Methodius, Cyril also decided to embrace the monastic life.

Having retrieved the relics of Pope Clement I during a mission in Crimea, the brothers successfully preached Christianity to the people of Moravia. Inventing an alphabet for the Slavonic language, they together with their disciples translated the liturgy, the Bible and texts of the Fathers, shaping the culture of the Slav peoples and leaving an outstanding example of "inculturation."

Pope Adrian II received them in Rome and encouraged their missionary work. When Cyril died in Rome in 869, Methodius continued the mission in spite of persecution. After his death in 885, some of his disciples, providentially released from slavery, spread the Gospel in Bulgaria and in "the Land of the Rus."

In recognition of the brothers' vast influence, they were named co-patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II. May we imitate their strong faith and their Christian wisdom as we bear witness to the Gospel in our daily lives!

'Put God in the center ...'

Life lessons for the Class of 2009

I can hardly believe it: My oldest son just graduated from high school!

It seems like yesterday that my wife and I were changing Joe's diapers. I know it's a cliché, but time sure does fly. And these are not just my thoughts: Countless moms, dads and guardians are expressing similar sentiments all around the world.

So what words of wisdom can we give to our new graduates?

While I'm sure you have gems of your own, allow me to share with you a few of the thoughts I gave to my newly graduated son.

"Congratulations! You should be proud of yourself. You have worked hard; you hung in there, even when things were difficult. That shows real character. Because when it's tough, it's easy to quit.

"It's always easier to walk away from problems, rather than work to resolve them. But the easy way is rarely the best way. Hard work and determination are essential ingredients to successful outcomes.

"This lesson is foundational, because while life is filled with many joys, it also is filled with many difficulties — especially if you continue to nurture a sensitivity to the sufferings of others both

locally and globally.

"However, feeling empathy for others who are hurting is not enough. It's just the beginning, not the end. Hard, determined work must follow.

"If life on this planet is to have meaning, it must be put at the service of others — with a very special emphasis on the unborn, poor, hungry and those affected by war.

"But much in our culture does not encourage such care and selflessness toward our fellow human beings. Our consumer-oriented society continuously urges us to buy things we simply do not need, at the terrible price of ignoring the hunger and poverty of billions of fellow human beings.

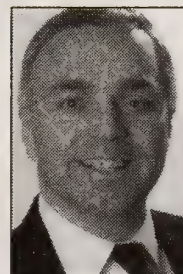
"So be alert. Don't let the tempting, self-centered part of our culture grab hold of you. Don't let it numb you toward the sufferings of so many. Rather, set your sights on selfless service.

"The great humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer said, 'I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.'

"Finally, on my bookcase, you know I have a little plaque that reads: 'Put God in the center — and everything will

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



come together.' This is the single most important piece of advice I can give.

"For a nation, a church, a marriage, a family, a single human life will never experience true wisdom, unity, peace and joy unless God is at the center.

"And the essence of the one true God is love. 'Love' is a verb; it is action-oriented. It works for the good of others. And by actively loving others, we prove and experience our love for God — and thus allow him to dwell at our center.

"Be determined to make a difference! Make sure that the world is a better place because of the love that you put into action.

"The late, great archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Emmanuel Celestin Suhard, once said, 'The world will belong to those who love it!'

"Graduation should not bring an end to education. Rather, it should encourage a lifelong adventure of learning, especially learning how to love more deeply.

"A life filled with love is each person's final exam. Please God, may we all graduate with flying colors!"



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



Bishop Peter J. Jugis invites you to the
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- Keynote Speaker – Immaculée Ilibagiza
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Brother Milton Lopez
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

K-5 TRACK



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"The Donut Man"

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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 32

Perspectives

Capital punishment; sin's
toxic effects; heroes of
many faiths

| PAGES 14-15

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The power of television

*Apostolate uses
commercials to
promote, defend
sanctity of human life*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE

According to Jesuit Father John Kavanaugh, professor of Philosophy at St. Louis University, by age 75 the average American will have spent 14 years of his or her life watching television. Of those, four years will have been spent watching commercials alone.

Fortunately, a pro-life media apostolate is taking advantage of those statistics to use the media as a tool for promoting godly virtues and the sanctity of life.

Founded in 1998, Virtue Media is a pro-life media

See ADS, page 7

'Pauline flame'

*At end of jubilee year,
figure of St. Paul
stands in clearer focus*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — After 12 months of special liturgies, conferences, Bible reflections, indulgences, concerts and pilgrimages, the Year of St. Paul has left the Apostle a more clearly defined figure on the Catholic landscape.

Even before Pope Benedict XVI led final closing ceremonies in Rome June 29,

See PAULINE, page 6

Faith, fitness and fellowship



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Father Patrick Hoare gives a final blessing to the athletes and adult volunteers at the kick-off meeting for Catholic Athletes for Christ at St. Mark Church in Huntersville June 10.

Church starts ministry for high school athletes

MINISTRY FIRST OF ITS
KIND IN THE COUNTRY

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE—What do basketball, ultimate Frisbee and faith have in common?

For members of Catholic Athletes for Christ at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, they were all part of their summer kick-off meeting June 10.

Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) is a national organization founded by Ray McKenna, a Washington, D.C. attorney and sports chaplain, in response to Pope John Paul II's call to evangelize the world of sports and to the establishment of the Vatican's office of Church and Sport.

According to the

See ATHLETES, page 9

Busy are the bishops

*Liturgy, immigration, marriage among
issues at USCCB spring meeting*

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Liturgical matters, immigration reform and same-sex marriage were among the topics discussed by the U.S. bishops in public sessions at their June 17-19 spring meeting in San Antonio.

But the bishops also devoted time — in executive session — to the recent controversy over the University of Notre Dame's decision to award

an honorary degree to U.S. President Barack Obama. They emerged from the meeting with a two-sentence affirmation of Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., for his "pastoral concern" for the university.

The only two liturgical texts receiving definitive approval

See BISHOPS, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY BAHAM MARK SOBHANI

Bishop Victor B. Galeone (center) of St. Augustine, Fla., reads from Scripture during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting in San Antonio June 17.

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Around the Diocese
*Knights, Columbiettes help
others in community*

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Youths in Action
*College students serve
homeless; new Eagle Scout*

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch
*Book on threats to Catholic
health care*

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

GROWING TOGETHER



CNS PHOTO BY CLARICE KEATING, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Rafaela Garcia works in a garden at St. Alexander Church in Cornelius, Ore., in early May. Providing places where low-income or apartment-dwelling parishioners can grow their own produce has become increasingly popular within parish communities.

Parishes' gardens help struggling families grow own food

CORNELIUS, Ore. (CNS) — Farming feels like home for many families tending plots in St. Alexander Church's community garden.

"This is helpful for them," said Alejandro Tecum, as he signaled toward the half-dozen people digging and planting next door to the church in Cornelius. "Most of them came from the countryside in Mexico. They love to work the soil because they were doing that since they were children."

Providing places where low-income or apartment-dwelling parishioners can grow their own produce has become increasingly popular within parish communities. With climbing grocery prices and the bad economy, many families are finding it more and more difficult to get healthy food on the table.

Tecum is the micro-enterprise program coordinator for Adelante Mujeres, a nonprofit that aims to educate and empower immigrants. He shares sustainable farming practices with participants so they are able to grow their own organic food. The nonprofit also manages a farmers' market where participants can supplement their incomes by selling food.

When leaders at St. Alexander Church decided to build a garden, they didn't have to go far to find a project supervisor. Tecum also is a parishioner.

Concepcion Giron has used the information imparted by Tecum to plant onions, tomatoes, peppers and other fresh crops in the church's garden. Last year, Giron sold her extra produce after Mass at a table outside the church.

Tomasa Yanez uses her summer and fall bounty, which includes cucumbers,

string beans and pumpkins, to make salads, tamales and other family favorites. She freezes her leftover crops to feed her family during the winter.

Liv Gifford, project manager for the Corvallis Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, has noted a shift in beliefs about food.

"I don't hear as often now 'Oh, they're low-income; I don't think high-quality local food is for them. They need to buy what's cheap,'" she said. "Gardening really helps remind people that good food is a human right."

St. Mary Church in Corvallis participates in a community garden at the Westside Community Church. Volunteers use a 500-square-foot plot to grow food for the parish's food pantry and soup kitchen. Plans also are under way for an organic produce cooperative.

Recently, Ecumenical Ministries coordinated a workshop to assist congregations in starting their own gardens. Two Portland parishes signed up and a third parish and its school were in the beginning phases of planning a community garden.

In Mount Angel, St. Mary Church has revived an old tradition called "solidarity gardens" to distribute fresh produce to parishioners in need.

Benedictine Father Philip Waibel, pastor, said farmers and gardeners bring in excess produce from their crops to be placed on a sharing table before Masses.

"We don't have space here at the parish, so we're asking people with their own gardens to be in solidarity with those who are in need and who can benefit from this," Father Waibel said.

Climate bill must have ample funding to help poor adapt, letter says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. bishop and the head of Catholic Relief Services called on Congress to ensure "the poorest people and countries on earth" have adequate financial assistance to help them adapt to the effects of climate change.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Ken Hackett, CRS president, made the comment in a June 22 letter to Congress on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On June 25, the House was scheduled to vote on national climate change legislation called the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Bishop Hubbard and Hackett said in general they were encouraged by the measure's provisions aimed at protecting the poor and vulnerable at home and abroad in the latest climate change legislation.

They said they approved of "mechanisms put in place to provide adapta-

tion assistance for poor and vulnerable populations internationally. However, we are deeply disappointed that the funding resources committed to international adaptation fall fundamentally short of what is needed initially and that additional increases in resources are pushed too far off into the future."

"Congress cannot leave the most vulnerable people without adequate help needed to protect their lives and dignity," they said, calling it "a matter of moral priority and policy."

"Addressing global climate change is both urgent and necessary. House consideration of this groundbreaking legislation begins a serious and overdue effort to face up to moral and environmental challenges and represents an important beginning," they said.

They noted that CRS is "already experiencing the tragic consequences of climate change in the lives of people living in poverty" in the more than 100 countries where the agency works.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel in Transition (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be July 16 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center 7-9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Keith Eades, a knowledgeable authority on building world-class sales organizations, who will lead a session on how to market yourself. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. (no study July 15). The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more

information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — The *Summer Bible Institute* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will take place July 20-24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Susan Brady will give an exciting and vivid presentation on the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to register in advance, call Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass for U.S. military personnel* July 5 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary, to be recited at 2:30 p.m., will be offered for all military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. Military personnel are invited and encouraged to come in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving will be displayed in the cathedral. To include your loved ones, mail a color or black-and-white photocopy of them with their names and military ranks on the back of the photos to Mrs. Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 to be received no later than July 1. Photocopies of pictures will not be returned.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., July 23 at 7:30 p.m. St. Peregrine has been called the "wonder worker" for his intercession on behalf of those living with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. He is the patron saint of all who are afflicted by cancer, leg ailments or any incurable diseases, as well as the patron saint of youths at

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
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JULY 3, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 32

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope offers support to U.N. campaign to end use of child soldiers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI offered his public support to the United Nations' efforts to prevent the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers and said he prays each day for suffering children around the world.

At the end of his weekly general audience June 24, the pope greeted Radhika Coomaraswamy, the U.N. secretary-general's representative for children and armed conflict, who was accompanied by Grace Akallo and Kon Kelei, former child soldiers.

The pope told the group he had deep "appreciation for the commitment to defend child victims of violence and weapons."

"I remember all the children of the world, especially those who are exposed to fear, abandonment, hunger, abuse, sickness and death. The pope is close to all of these little victims and remembers

them always in his prayers," he said.

After meeting Pope Benedict, the group spoke at a conference on the need to increase protection for children in times of war and to provide comprehensive rehabilitation programs to children who have been forced to take up arms.

At the conference sponsored by the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio, Coomaraswamy said her office estimates there are about 250,000 children currently used as soldiers, in wars and guerrilla conflicts around the world.

"Communities of faith are communications networks," she said.

They are a key part of an "early warning system" sharing and giving information about kidnappings or murders of children, educating parents and children about the dangers of recruitment ploys and in making sure that church-run schools are "safe zones."

risk. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The rosary is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, will begin a three-week session in July. *Theology on Tap* is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. The series will be held on the third floor of Natty Green's Pub and Brewing Co., 345 S. Elm St., July 7, 14 and 20. Come at 6:45 p.m. to eat and socialize; speaker begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will begin a six-week program on the Epistle to the Hebrews June 30. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The *Flames of Fire charismatic prayer group* meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2201 West Market St. All those interested in the charismatic way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730 or Lorraine Brown (336) 292-5186.

GREENSBORO — The health care ministry at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., is teaming up with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to offer a 12-week course for family and/or

caregivers of individuals with mental illnesses.

The free course will be held at the church on Thursdays from Sept. 3 through Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Class size will be limited. For more information or to register, call Frank or Pat Cleary at (336) 286-2603. Participants must register before Aug. 6.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Are you interested in learning about your Irish heritage? The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* welcome all women who are practicing Roman Catholics, and who are Irish by birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians or the mother of a junior member. A new division is starting in the Huntersville, Denver and Mooresville areas. To learn more, contact Janice Donahue at (704) 249-9161 after 7 p.m. weekdays or e-mail ladydonahue@gmail.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope signs first encyclical on social themes to serve common good

VATICAN CITY — For more than 100 years, Catholic social teaching has tried to help people face the world's social, political and economic challenges with the power of the Gospel.

Pope Benedict XVI announced June 29 that he had signed his first formal contribution to the list of papal encyclical letters on social themes and that it was titled "Caritas in Veritate" ("Love in Truth"). Although dated June 29, the letter was expected to be released July 7.

The pope said his letter would look at modern problems in the field of promoting development, and he asked for prayers for "this latest contribution that the church offers humanity in its commitment for sustainable progress in full respect for human dignity and the real needs of all."

Instead of focusing on theological

beliefs, the social encyclicals written by most modern-day popes have tried to shape the way Christians and all people of good will can better serve the common good. Each social encyclical was unique in that it sought to respond to the most pressing social realities at the time.

Anticipating his first social encyclical, Pope Benedict said it would offer "a beautiful response" to the new realities and changes that had occurred since "Centesimus Annus" was promulgated 18 years ago.

Pope Benedict also said the publication of the document was delayed by the eruption of one of the worst global economic crises in decades. He said he wanted to update what he had drafted so the document would deal thoroughly with the current crisis and offer "a more adequate response" to the world's financial woes.

Palliums from the pope



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI embraces U.S. Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit after presenting him with a pallium on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29. The pope bestowed the pallium on 34 archbishops from 20 countries. The woolen band worn around the shoulders is a sign of the archbishops' authority and responsibility as shepherds.

Catholic Common Ground Initiative honors Sister Carol Keehan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Common Ground Initiative presented its annual Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Award June 26 to Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association.

Sister Keehan was selected because of "her extraordinary contributions to creating common ground between church leaders and government officials, organized labor and Catholic health care providers, the rich and

the poor," according to the citation presented to her in a brief ceremony at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

It praised Sister Keehan for her efforts to achieve national health care reform and for her work on a recent document by representatives of Catholic health care, the labor movement and the U.S. bishops' conference setting principles designed to ensure a fair process as health care workers decide whether to join a union.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

July 5 (3 p.m.)
Mass for U.S. military personnel
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

July 8 (7 p.m.)
Mass for Knights of Columbus
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

July 9 (6:30 p.m.)
Pastor installation of Father Frank Seabo
St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler

July 11 (5 p.m.)
Mass for 75th anniversary of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church
Albemarle

NOTICE TO READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is currently on its fortnightly publishing schedule through August. The next issue will be July 17.

Beacon of hope



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Long (right), president of Columbiettes Bishop Greco 9499, presents a \$1,000 check to Cindy Pickles, support group leader at Julian's Beacon, during a meeting at Holy Family Church in Clemmons June 8. Julian's Beacon provides assistance to patients with pulmonary hypertension, a rare blood vessel disorder of the lung in which the pressure of the pulmonary artery rises above normal levels and becomes life threatening. The Columbiettes is the women's auxiliary group of the Knights of Columbus.

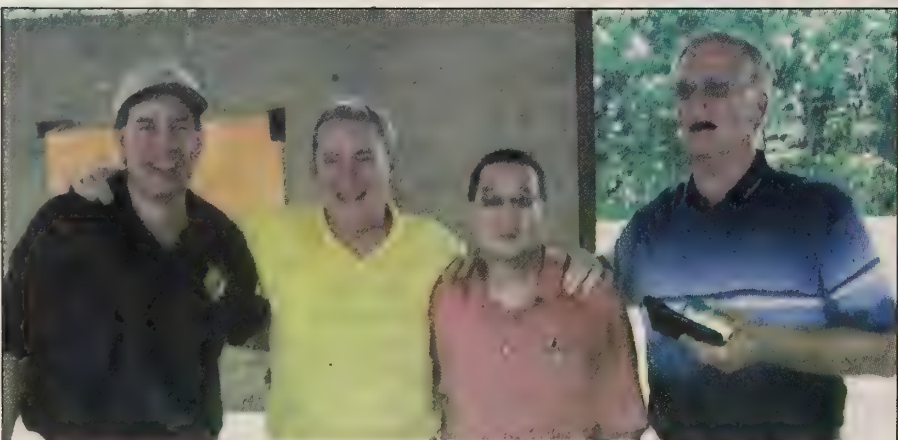
Knightly words



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Tim Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, stands with members of Knights of Columbus Council 770 who presented an award to Jack Romero (center), a kindergarten student at St. Ann School and a divisional winner of the Knights' poster contest, at the church May 8. Council 770 sponsored the local contest, themed "What Does Baby Jesus Mean to Me?" and part of the Knights of Columbus national poster contest for preschool and elementary school students, for students of St. Ann and St. Patrick schools in Charlotte. Jack received a plaque, a children's Bible and a gift certificate to a local book store. Also pictured are Jack's parents, John (left) and Tracy Romero, and his sister Paige.

Golf gladiators



COURTESY PHOTO

Bruce Baden, Stewart Blanton, Larry Jobe and Bill Ronemus are the winners of the annual golf tournament held at the Maple Leaf Golf Club June 6 and sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 8509 of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville. More than 70 players participated in the tournament, which raised \$4,520 for the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. to assist individuals with mental retardation.

Celebrating Christ



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, incenses a monstrance during a Corpus Christi celebration on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 14. Also pictured are Deacon Louis Pais and members of the Knights of Columbus. The celebration included a eucharistic procession (pictured below) to three outdoor altars, Bible readings and prayers.


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Sunday, July 19 – Friday, July 24

Joan Cook – Old Testament

Old Testament presentations will be Sunday from 7-9 pm, and Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:45-9:30 pm.

Dan Harrington – New Testament

New Testament presentations will be Monday through Friday mornings from 8:45 -11:45 am.

For further information, please contact The Oratory.

FROM THE COVER

Liturgy, immigration, marriage among issues at USCCB meeting

BISHOPS, from page 1

from the bishops in San Antonio were a Spanish-language Lectionary and a Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life.

The Mass for life, first proposed nearly 20 years ago by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, passed by a 183-2 vote, with three abstentions. The Spanish-language Lectionary was approved on a 181-2 vote, also with three abstentions. Both now go to the Vatican for confirmation.

But five sections of the Roman Missal being prepared for use in English-speaking countries failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote of the Latin-rite U.S. bishops during the meeting.

With 244 Latin-rite bishops in the United States eligible to vote on the questions, the required two-thirds was 163. With 189 eligible bishops attending the meeting, only 134 voted to accept the first section, Masses and prayers for various needs and intentions.

On four subsequent translations, the votes also failed to reach two-thirds, meaning the 55 bishops not present will

be polled by mail on all five parts. That process is expected to take several weeks.

The items that failed to pass contain the Order of the Mass II; prefaces for various occasions; votive Masses and Masses for the dead; solemn blessings for the end of Mass; prayers over the people; and eucharistic prayers for particular occasions, such as for evangelization or ordinations.

On immigration reform, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago wrote on behalf of the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to urge President Barack Obama and Congress to enact comprehensive reform before the end of 2009.

"It has been clear for years that the United States immigration system requires repair and that reform legislation should not be delayed," said the USCCB president in a prepared statement.

"I would ask President Barack Obama and congressional leaders of both parties to work together to fashion and enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation before the end of the year," he said.

He also urged "respect and observance of all just laws" and said the bishops "do not approve or encourage the illegal entry of anyone into our country."

Minding marriage

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Defense of Marriage, reported to his fellow bishops about the challenges in meeting their priority focus on marriage, especially the quick rate at which states and courts have been taking up legislation that legalizes same-sex marriage or prohibits it.

Six states now recognize marriage between same-sex couples, Archbishop Kurtz said, and others are considering the same type of laws or a range of others "allowing everything but marriage," that would give new legal rights to civil unions.

He said the key points that the ad hoc committee is focusing on to support marriage are:

— That marriage is inherently



CNS PHOTO BY BAHAM MARK SOHANI

Bishops take part in the mid-afternoon prayer to begin the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 17.

related to sexual differences and the complementarity of men and women.

— That marriage is for the good of children, who are themselves "a great good of marriage."

— That marriage is a unique bond reserved to men and women by nature.

— That same-sex marriage has negative effects on religious rights.

The bishops also heard brief reports from their conference vice president, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., about their other four priorities: faith formation and sacramental practice; the life and dignity of the human person; cultural diversity in the church; and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Other actions

In other actions, the bishops in a 135-2 vote approved a recommendation from their Committee on Budget and Finance to keep the 2010 assessment on dioceses to fund the work of the USCCB at the 2009 level of just over \$10 million. The vote was open only to bishops who head dioceses.

But Archbishop Kurtz, chairman of the committee, warned that he would probably be asking for an increase for 2011 when that assessment comes up at the bishops' November meeting in Baltimore. The assessments are

calculated for each diocese based on a formula that includes offertory income, registered households and contributions to three national collections.

The bishops also approved funding of \$450,000 for the New York-based John Jay College of Criminal Justice to complete a study of the causes and context of clergy sex abuse of minors. Commissioned by the bishops in the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the study is expected to be completed by December 2010.

During their executive session, the U.S. bishops expressed "appreciation and support" for Bishop D'Arcy especially for "his pastoral concern" for the University of Notre Dame.

In a two-sentence statement made public June 22 in Washington, the bishops also affirmed Bishop D'Arcy's "solicitude for (Notre Dame's) Catholic identity and his loving care for all those the Lord has given him to sanctify, to teach and to shepherd."

The statement made no direct reference to the controversy over the university's decision to have Obama as commencement speaker May 17 or to a recent call by the board of directors of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities for the bishops to revisit their 2004 statement, "Catholics in Political Life."

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At end of jubilee year, figure of St. Paul clearer

PAULINE, from page 1

Vatican officials declared the jubilee year a success.

"The result has been positive, even beyond the most optimistic predictions," Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, said at a Vatican press conference June 26.

At the Pauline basilica, which had often been overlooked by pilgrims to Rome, overflow crowds came to visit and pray at the tomb of the Apostle, the cardinal said.

Thanks to some architectural finessing, a portion of the tomb, a rough-hewn marble sarcophagus buried beneath the main altar, was for the first time made visible to visitors.

It was Pope Benedict who almost single-handedly gave the jubilee its content. In weekly talks, homilies and liturgical celebrations, he sketched a detailed portrait of the man considered the model of Christian conversion and the archetypal missionary.

St. Paul was the most prolific of the early Apostles, the man who took the Gospel of Christ into the world of non-Jews and helped set the church on a more universal path. The pope's main point was that this evangelizing spirit based on personal conversion needs to be rekindled among today's 1.1 billion Catholics.

"Dear brothers and sisters, as in early times, today too Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St. Paul," the pope said when he proclaimed the jubilee.

As the year progressed, the pope found a "St. Paul angle" for his talks

to bishops, religious orders, university students and his own Roman Curia. He had plenty of material to draw upon: St. Paul's 14 letters represent nearly half of the New Testament.

On Pope Benedict's foreign trips, St. Paul came along.

In Paris last year, as the global financial crisis worsened, the pope recalled St. Paul's preaching against idolatry and greed, and asked whether it wasn't relevant today: "Have not money, the thirst for possessions, for power and even knowledge, diverted man from his true identity?"

The pope's annual message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees featured St. Paul as a "migrant by vocation" and an ambassador-at-large for Christ.

In talks to bishops from Asia, the pope suggested they try to learn from St. Paul's ability to evangelize in cultures that are new to Christianity, presenting the Gospel in ways that resonate with the traditional spiritual wisdom of their continent. Citing the Apostle's missionary courage, he told a group of newly appointed bishops to imitate St. Paul's persistence in the face of personal mistreatment and dangers.

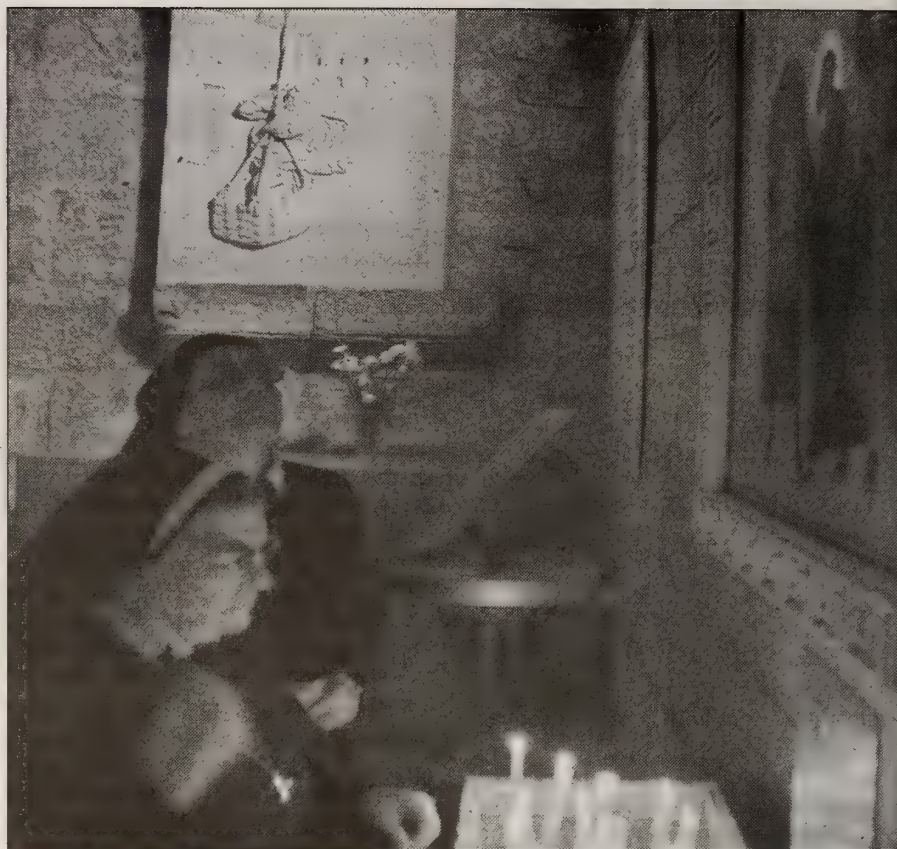
Prayers and unity

Pope Benedict also applied the saint's lessons to contemporary rivalries and controversies within the church community.

In early 2009, during debate over several of his own decisions in the church, the pope quoted St. Paul's admonition to Galatian Christians not to "go on biting and devouring one another."

St. Paul understood that church unity was the primary requisite for a credible witness of the Gospel in the world, he said.

He struck a similar theme at the ecumenical vespers service Jan. 25, the



CNS PHOTO BY KHALED AL-HARRI, REUTERS

Nuns light candles in front of a sculpture of St. Paul on the wall of St. Paul's Church in Damascus, Syria, June 29, 2008.

feast of the conversion of St. Paul. That liturgy marked the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and the pope was joined by Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican representatives in the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls.

In his homily, the pope emphasized St. Paul's message that without internal unity, Christians cannot bring peace and reconciliation to the ruptured societies across the globe.

Pilgrims who came to Rome enjoyed a special itinerary of nine sites linked to the life of St. Paul, including ancient churches built on sites where the Apostle resided, the Mamertine Prison where he was incarcerated by Roman authorities, and the Abbey of the Three Fountains where he was beheaded on the order of the Emperor Nero.

A plenary indulgence, the remission of temporal punishment due to sin, was

offered for pilgrims who crossed the threshold of the "Pauline Doors," prayed at the tomb of St. Paul, confessed their sins, received the Eucharist and prayed for the pope's intentions.

It was also offered to Catholics participating in local events marking the jubilee year.

A series of concerts was offered in the Basilica of St. Paul throughout the year. Cardinal Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo said that when he broached the idea to Pope Benedict, to make sure there was no objection, the music-loving pope simply replied: "Are you inviting me?"

The cardinal said it was decided that at the ceremonial closing of the Pauline year, the "Pauline flame" that has burned in the basilica during the past 12 months would be kept lit, to symbolically keep alive "all that has been positive during this year."

Closing Pauline year, pope reveals results of tests on apostle's tomb

ROME (CNS) — Closing the year of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI announced that tests done on the presumed tomb of the apostle revealed the presence of bone fragments from a human who lived during the first and second centuries.

"This seems to confirm the unanimous and uncontested tradition that they are the mortal remains of the Apostle Paul," the pope said during an evening prayer service June 28 at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The basilica has long been held to be the burial site of St. Paul, but because of the destruction and rebuilding of the basilica, the tomb's exact location was unknown for centuries.

Vatican officials announced in December 2006 that several feet below the basilica's main altar and behind a smaller altar, they had found a roughly cut marble sarcophagus beneath an inscription that reads: "Paul Apostle Martyr."

Because part of the sarcophagus is buried beneath building material, Vatican officials determined they could not dig it out to open and examine the contents.

It was decided, Pope Benedict said, to drill "very tiny perforation" into the marble so that a small probe could be inserted in order to withdraw fragments, which underwent carbon-14 analysis.

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RESPECT LIFE

Apostolate uses ads to promote, defend life

ADS, from page 1

apostolate that creates and airs national television and radio commercials. The mission of Virtue Media is three-fold: first, to help save unborn babies from abortion; second, to offer hope and healing to post-abortive parents; and third, to educate the public about the sanctity of life.

By harnessing the potential of media to educate and inform the general public, Virtue Media has tapped into an expansive resource that allows for the spreading of positive messages in the media market.

The ads were first introduced in the Charlotte market in 2006 after Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, asked Tom Peterson, founder and president of Virtue Media, to speak at the parish.

With financial support from St. Mark Church, Virtue Media then partnered with North Carolina Right to Life, Inc. to launch a pro-life ad campaign called "Heart to Heart."

Real results

Using pro-life television ads from Virtue Media, the campaign, which was an ecumenical effort between Catholic and non-Catholic churches in the community, was aimed at reducing the number of abortions in the Charlotte area.

The ads first ran on major networks and cable stations from December 26, 2006 to March 25, 2007 and again during June, July, August and October of 2007.

According to North Carolina Right to Life, Inc., in 2007 there were nearly 1,900 fewer abortions in the Charlotte area than in 2006.

In August 2008, Bishop Peter J. Jugis sent a letter to pastors encouraging their support of the campaign.

"Television is the most effective and influential vehicle we have to touch minds and hearts in society," said Bishop Jugis in the letter. "The ads are positive messages which encourage people to choose life over abortion, and offer hope and healing to parents after abortion."

Within the past year several parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte have supported the campaign through either parish tithes or voluntary contributions from parishioners.

Virtue Media offers church presentation materials, including DVDs of the ads, to parishes that are interested in generating support.

How they work

At the end of each ad a number is provided for Option Line, a call center in Columbus, Ohio, which is run by CareNet pregnancy centers and staffed 24 hours a day by Christian groups.

At Option Line, callers are directed to local pregnancy help centers where they can receive counseling. In Charlotte, callers are directed to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

When Virtue Media television ads air nationally, approximately 22,000 women contact the pregnancy call line a month, according to Peterson.

He attributes such high numbers to the utilization of television as the most effective way to reach people.

"We're showing up where these women are," said Peterson. "When you put a powerful creative message out there, when and where they are watching, they will respond."

A powerful message

One of those powerful messages comes directly from Norma McCorvey, better known as Jane Roe, the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion in 1973.

In the ad, McCorvey, a convert to Catholicism, refers to the court case as "the biggest mistake of my life."

Now she is dedicating her life to



SCREEN CAPTURE COURTESY OF VIRTUE MEDIA

Above is a screen capture of one of Virtue Media's pro-life television ads. When Virtue Media ads air on national television stations, approximately 22,000 women contact the pregnancy help center a month, according to founder Tom Peterson.

spreading the truth about preserving the sanctity of human life.

"We have powerful national figures who are blessing us and our church with the truth," said Peterson, referring to Virtue Media ads featuring McCorvey and Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"It's powerful coming right from them," he said.

What's next?

Peterson has started a second Catholic media apostolate called Catholics Come Home, which he hopes will further the mission of Virtue Media.

Although these ads are focused primarily on bringing wayward Catholics

back to the church, Peterson believes that by bringing more Catholics home, the pro-life movement within the church will be strengthened.

"The ultimate solution to stopping abortion is to have more hearts centered on Christ and more people active in their Catholic parishes," he said.

"Research has shown that if people are centered on Christ and active in their churches, they will support pro-life issues," he said. "Once somebody is grounded in faith, they can be formed in virtue."

WANT MORE INFO?

To find out more about Virtue Media, visit www.virtuemedia.org.

Catholic presence strong at National Right to Life convention

CHARLOTTE (CNS) — A Catholic congressman, the founder of Priests for Life and a leading priest-ethicist were among the speakers and workshop presenters at the National Right to Life convention June 18-20 in Charlotte.

The convention, with the theme "Stop the Abortion Agenda," drew nearly 1,000 participants from 48 states and covered a wide range of topics affecting human life, including concerns raised by a proposed national health reform.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, kicked off the convention with a presentation on "The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning."

"There are seductive arguments regarding embryonic stem cell research, like 'These embryos are all going to be thrown away anyway,' but can we ever throw away another human being? This is not how we treat one another," he said.

There have been no medical cures or therapies yet using human embryonic stem cells, while there are a myriad of cures and therapies using the ethically obtained adult stem cells.

Failing to emphasize this key

distinction to the general public is "unjust," according to Father Pacholczyk, who said the importance of keeping ethics in modern science cannot be overstated.

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life was part of a panel discussion on "The Church, the Media and the State."

Calling the media an information-eating machine, he challenged his audience to get educated, write stories and be available to share the truth with the media so they can do their job in challenging the state.

In the second panel titled "We Are the Sheep ... Where Are the Shepherds," Father Pavone joined pro-life leaders from several large Christian denominations, each with unique challenges promoting the sanctity of life in each particular faith community.

He said that nowhere in the mission of the church in the modern world is the power of authentic Christian unity expressing itself more visibly, powerfully and practically than in the pro-life work.

Among the other topics addressed at the convention were U.S. funding of domestic and international abortions and the suppression of research regarding the harmful effects of abortion.

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Sharing hope and respect

College students serve overnight shift at homeless shelter

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Eight students from Wake Forest University's Catholic Campus Ministry recently spent the night at a local homeless shelter.

It was a service project that brought them outside of their comfort zones and gave them a glimpse into the lives of those less fortunate.

The students served at Samaritan Inn located in downtown Winston-Salem June 25-26.

Their duties included serving dinner, taking turns watching surveillance monitors throughout the night and helping to prepare breakfast in the morning. In between their chores they spent time getting to know the men in the shelter.

"I was really unsure of what this undertaking would be like," said Nikki Garcia, a senior, who had done some previous volunteer work at shelters but had never spent the night.

"Overall, it was a really great experience to reach out to people who may not see their own worth some days," said Garcia.

After dinner the students cleaned the kitchen, mopped the floors and spent

time talking to the men.

"We got to attend the evening devotional service, during which one of the men told us about his life and read Scripture passages," said Rachel Fedders, a sophomore.

"Afterwards, other guests spoke out about their hardships and how the shelter had helped them to find hope," she said.

Hearing the stories gave the students a first-hand look into the personal struggles of people in their community.

"Often during times of economic hardship, it is difficult for the fortunate to

"I think that it is important for those who have been blessed to take a step back ... and lend some aid in whatever manner possible."

— Michael Montoya

see just how lucky they have been," said student Michael Montoya.

"I think that it is important for those

who have been blessed to take a step back, realize that the down and out have had some bad luck, and lend some aid in whatever manner possible," he said.

Serving in the shelter also helped the students realize that even a small gesture can make a difference to a person who is struggling.

"As our campus minister told us, we don't have to be able to offer deep words of encouragement or know just the right thing to do or say to be able to help these people out," said Fedders. "Just by smiling and treating them with respect, we can help them remember that they are deserving of respect."

The students are planning to serve at the shelter again this summer.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Scout earns Eagle rank



COURTESY PHOTO

Brian Mark Hilgert, 16, a parishioner of Holy Spirit Church in Denver and a member of Boy Scout Troop 80, recently achieved Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Father Carmen Malacari, pastor; Deacon James Atkinson; and Knights of Columbus joined Brian's family and friends for the court of honor ceremony at the church May 30.

Brian's Eagle project involved designing and building a children's memorial garden outside the church.

Located near the parish activity center, the two-tier garden includes a variety of plants and flowers as well as a statue of Jesus, a bird bath and stone animal sculptures.

In Troop 80, Brian has held the offices of senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and instructor. He plans to continue to assist and lead the troop activities alongside his father and troop leader, Art Hilgert, who is also an Eagle Scout.

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YOUTHS IN ACTION

Church starts ministry for high school athletes

ATHLETES, from page 1

organization's Web site, the goal of CAC is to provide an integrated network of sports-oriented clergy and lay people to serve Catholic athletes, coaches and staff in the practice of their faith.

It also will allow them to utilize the unique platform given to them to reach the world for Jesus Christ and his church.

At St. Mark Church, Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar, and Jean Whelan, parishioner, decided to implement the group as another way for teens to get involved at the parish. The ministry was formed last summer as an alternative to the Life Teen youth group.

Life Teen has been very successful, but Father Hoare and Whelan felt that there were youths at the parish who still were not being served.

"We wanted another ministry for teens," said Whelan. "It is a different door to enter your faith."

Through prayer and research, they came across the CAC Web site. After contacting the organization, they received permission to use the existing college formula, which they tailored to meet the needs of the high school athletes.

"For many high school students, athletics is an important part of the high school experience," said Father Hoare. With CAC "we are taking something they love and tying it in with faith."

The group meets every other Wednesday during the summer. Their meetings begin and end with prayer and always include an athletic activity followed by a faith-sharing talk.

At the kick-off meeting, the youths were divided into groups to play indoor and outdoor basketball and ultimate



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Members of Catholic Athletes for Christ play ultimate Frisbee during the organization's summer kick-off event at St. Mark Church in Huntersville June 10.

Frisbee. After the games they had a cookout followed with a talk by Charlotte Catholic High School athletic director Kevin Christmas.

"I really am impressed with this group," said Christmas, who said he was inspired by the fellowship he saw among the athletes.

The group at St. Mark Church is the first high school division of CAC in the country. The national program hopes to use the group as a model for other high schools and churches around the country.

At each meeting, approximately 12 adult facilitators are on hand to supervise the activities.

"They are former athletes who love their faith," said Whelan.

In terms of youth involvement, leadership opportunities are available in the form of a teen advisory board.

The board, made up of rising high school juniors and seniors, attends all of the planning meetings and offers suggestions relating to the development of the program.

"They tell us what's working," said Whelan, who also mentioned that it was members of the teen advisory board who suggested that the group devote one of their meetings to eucharistic adoration.

"We focus on the virtues but also on eucharistic presence," said Whelan. "The mission is bringing Christ into your sport and showing him to others as you play your sport."

Whelan's daughter, Mary Kathryn, is a rising senior at Charlotte Catholic High School and a member of the CAC teen advisory board. She said the benefits of CAC vary for each of the members.

"Hopefully they get fitness, but also learn lessons about how to deal with stuff in high school and

life in general," she said.

A member of the Charlotte Catholic High School women's soccer team, Mary Kathryn also said that CAC has helped her approach soccer with a more charitable attitude.

"Sometimes when I'm playing soccer I get aggravated and want to do things that are not very Christian-like," she said. "This just helps me remember that we have got to stay in our faith."

Christmas talked to the athletes about the importance of finding time for God each day, something he does by attending daily Mass. "If we can't give 20 minutes of our day to God then there is something wrong in our lives," he said.

His advice to the athletes: "Believe in yourself, believe in your faith and I don't think you have anything to worry about."

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit Catholic Athletes for Christ online at www.catholicathletesforchrist.com.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Members of Catholic Athletes for Christ play basketball during the activity portion of their meeting at St. Mark Church in Huntersville June 10. All CAC meetings begin and end with prayer and include some sort of athletic activity followed by a faith-sharing talk.

Summer swing



COURTESY PHOTO BY GREG BAILEY

Katie Carter (left) and Kimberly Jones (center) dance with Hannah Roy (right), a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School and a camp group leader, during an event at Camp SOAR (Special Olympics Athletic Retreat) at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Charlotte June 19. Nearly 300 athletes with disabilities and 200 volunteers took part in the ninth annual camp June 15-19. The camp features sporting events including bocce, soccer, basketball, tennis and swimming, as well as arts and crafts, entertainment and bowling.

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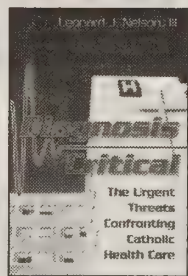
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Culture Watch

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New book sees growing threats to Catholic health care, conscience

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



WASHINGTON — Catholic health care faces cultural, legal, economic and political challenges that may lead to the end of its distinctively Catholic mission in the not-too-distant future, a Catholic law professor writes in a new book.

"Issues related to women's reproductive rights may provide the most difficult challenges to the ongoing struggles by the sponsors of (Catholic) hospitals in terms of preserving their Catholic identity," says Leonard Nelson III in "Diagnosis Critical: The Urgent Threats Confronting Catholic Healthcare," published in June.

Nelson, an affiliated scholar with the Birmingham School of Public Health at the University of Alabama, sees the future of Catholic health care in free clinics; specialized centers focusing on natural family planning and other church-approved reproductive medicine; and hospice care for the dying.

"They may need to move out of the hospital setting" to aspects of medical care that are "not subject to extensive government oversight," Nelson told Catholic News Service in a May 28 interview.

But the president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association sees no coming retreat from Catholic health care as we know it today, calling Nelson's book "really a very old thesis that reappears every five to 10 years."

"We have no reason to think we will or should close," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity, in an e-mail to CNS. "We will keep conscience protection and we will continue to be a major presence in the health care of this nation."

Sister Keehan also said that "people who have not been in Catholic health care and have no knowledge of what it has meant in the lives of so many are too willing to give it up. It is a treasure, and the care of the sick is a sign of the kingdom, and we intend to be here being that sign."

Nelson, a member of St. Paul's Cathedral in Birmingham, sees a sort of Catch-22 in efforts to defend the Catholic identity of hospitals from moves to dilute conscience protections in those institutions.

"Catholic institutions could bolster their claim to statutory, if not constitutional protection, from (laws that require them to act in violation of Catholic teaching) by becoming more pervasively Catholic," he writes. "And if Catholic institutions are generally perceived to be serious about their Catholic identity, it may be easier to argue for legislative exemption from such laws."

"On the other hand, emphasizing the distinctive mission of Catholic hospitals may strengthen claims that public funding should be denied because of

the sectarian nature of these hospitals," Nelson adds.

In the CNS interview, he cited a variety of reasons for what he sees as the current dire state of Catholic health care.

Among them are a lack of vocations leading to a switch in leadership of Catholic hospitals from women religious to laypeople, some of whom are not Catholics; the societal trend toward viewing abortion as a "right" that should not be affected by the beliefs of others; and the economic stresses that force Catholic hospitals into "all sorts of joint ventures and mergers" to maintain financial viability.

But the greatest threat might come from the concerted effort by groups that promote or provide abortions to "mainstream abortion" by making it part of every health plan and available at every hospital, Nelson said. "It's going to be constant. I don't believe FOCA (the Freedom of Choice Act) will pass. It will be more incremental, more subtle, but we will end up in the same place."

FOCA, which would wipe out many existing state laws and impede states' ability to regulate abortion, has not yet been introduced in the current Congress. President Barack Obama has stated it is not a high legislative priority for him.

In the near future, "insurance plans will all have to cover abortion and the full range of reproductive services, so Catholics will be paying for it that way," Nelson said.

Nelson blamed some Catholic politicians for advancing the view that it is OK to be Catholic and to support keeping abortion legal and said some bishops have not been sufficiently willing to denounce that view.

"Pro-choice" Catholic politicians threaten the continued existence of Catholic health care because they provide political cover and legitimacy to efforts to impose mandates on Catholic health care institutions to provide services in violation of the ERDs," Nelson writes.

The "ERDs" are the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services," which guide Catholic health care facilities in addressing a wide range of ethical questions.

Nelson said he has been writing "Diagnosis Critical" for four or five years but has been interested in Catholic health care since he worked for a law firm 30 years ago that provided legal services to a Catholic hospital system.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 12, 2009

July 12, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Amos 7:12-15
Psalm 85:9-14
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Sharing God's love often difficult

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I recently started a new quest. It is a rather simple thing: I want to say "hi" to people when we pass each other on the sidewalk or grocery store aisle.

I'm tired of walking by people and neither one of us acknowledging the other's existence.

So far it has not gone well. Most of the time people either give me a strange look or ignore me completely.

Every once in awhile someone will look at me, smile and say "hello" back to me.

I don't know why this is such a hard thing for people to do, but I feel compelled to continue this mission.

My little "say hi" campaign is nothing compared to the quests we hear about in this Sunday's readings, though the results are similar.

Amos is called to be a prophet for the Lord. But not only is he not welcomed by the people to whom he gives God's

word, he is asked to leave.

He complains, "I was no prophet, ... I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores," as if to say, "I never asked for this job, I liked my old job; no one ever ridiculed me there."

In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve Apostles out, two by two, on a missionary journey. They are to preach repentance, heal the sick and drive out demons.

Jesus must have anticipated that they would not always be welcomed, so he gives them this instruction: "Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them."

Following the Lord and bringing his message of love to the world is seldom easy.

Like Amos and the apostles, we will not always be welcomed with open arms.

But our motivation does not have to come from people responding to our mission. St. Paul reminds us that we who hope in Christ, "exist for the praise of his glory."

Bringing glory to God is success enough. We accomplish this when we spread the love God has given us with all we meet, even if it is just in passing.

Questions:

What are some ways you try to share the love of God with others?

Have you ever been rejected when trying to live your faith?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two" (Mark 6:7).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5-11

Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 2:2-5, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Mark 6:1-6; Monday (St. Maria Goretti), Genesis 28:10-22, Matthew 9:18-26; Tuesday, Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; Wednesday, Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24, Matthew 10:1-7; Thursday (St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions), Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5, Matthew 10:7-15; Friday, Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; Saturday (St. Benedict), Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26, Matthew 10:24-33.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12-18

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Amos 7:12-15, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:7-13; Monday (St. Henry), Exodus 1:8-14, 22, Matthew 10:34-11:1; Tuesday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha), Exodus 2:1-15, Matthew 11:20-24; Wednesday (St. Bonaventure), Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; Thursday (Our Lady of Mount Carmel), Exodus 3:13-20, Matthew 11:28-30; Friday, Exodus 11:10-12:14, Matthew 12:1-8; Saturday (St. Camillus de Lellis), Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19-25

Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 23:1-6, Ephesians 2:13-18, Mark 6:30-34; Monday (St. Apollinaris), Exodus 14:5-18, Exodus 15:1-6, Matthew 12:38-42; Tuesday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi), Exodus 14:21-15:1, Exodus 15:8-10, 12, 17, Matthew 12:46-50; Wednesday (St. Mary Magdalene), Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15, John 20:1-2, 11-18; Thursday (St. Bridget of Sweden), Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, Daniel 3:52-56, Matthew 13:10-17; Friday (St. Sharbel Makhluf), Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 13:18-23; Saturday (St. James), 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28.

Ed McMahon, a Catholic University alumnus, dead at 86

BY CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Known to millions for his trademark "Heeere's Johnny" introduction as the longtime sidekick to Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show," entertainer and Catholic University of America alumnus Ed McMahon died early June 23 in Los Angeles at 86.

The Detroit native, who was raised Catholic, died shortly after midnight at the Ronald Reagan/UCLA Medical Center.

No cause of death has been released, but in the past few years McMahon had endured a number of health problems, including a 2007 neck injury, and had a highly publicized hospitalization for pneumonia last winter.

Though the entertainer publicly acknowledged recent financial difficulties that nearly forced him out of his lavish Beverly Hills home in 2008, he had been generous throughout the years with his time and money for Catholic institutions, including a scholarship endowment for Catholic University and serving as its alumni association's national president from 1967 to 1971.

McMahon's celebrity status added excitement to alumni events, especially homecoming, said Marion Gosney, alumni relations director at Catholic University.

"Ed helped strengthen the alumni

association with his big personality," Gosney said. "He brought people together and was a loyal alumnus."

McMahon received a bachelor's degree in drama from the Washington school in 1949 and was awarded an honorary doctor of communication arts degree in 1988.

"Catholic University has lost one of its most renowned alumni with the passing of Ed McMahon," Vincentian Father David O'Connell, president of the school, said. "He took such great pride in his alma mater and rarely missed an opportunity to speak positively about his time here in various interviews and books."

Edward Leo Peter McMahon Jr. was born in Detroit, attended the Jesuit-run Boston College, and served in the military as a test pilot during World War II before enrolling at Catholic University.

While enrolled at Catholic University under the GI Bill, McMahon studied under Dominican Father Gilbert V. Hartke — who created the drama department at the school — and later led the campaign to raise funds to build a theater on campus in the priest's name.

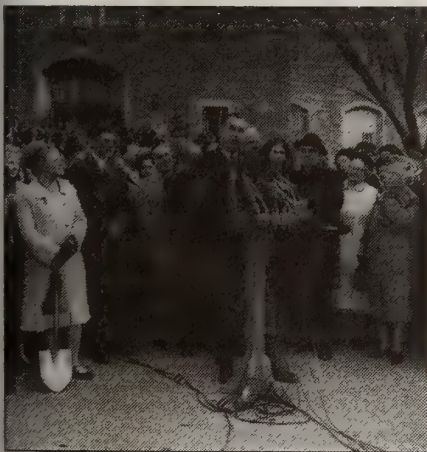
"Ed was devoted to ... Father Hartke, only to follow in his footsteps to legend status: 'I owe so much to CU,' McMahon told me at Bob Hope's funeral a few years ago," Father O'Connell said.

"That's where my career got its start," he told the priest.

After stints on radio, McMahon shifted his attention to television in Philadelphia, and in the 1950s began appearing on a show called "Who Do You Trust?" hosted by Carson, and then accompanied the talk-show legend when he became the host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" in 1962, where he remained until 1992, when Carson retired.

McMahon's other credits included serving as host of "Star Search" and "TV's Bloopers and Practical Jokes." In 1969 McMahon provided the narration for the Serra International Foundation's film, "Generations of Influence," produced to promote religious vocations.

The longtime television personality is survived by his third wife, Pamela, and five of his six children. McMahon's son, Michael, died in 1995.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF CUA ARCHIVES

Ed McMahon speaks at The Catholic University of America's Hartke Theater groundbreaking ceremony in 1967.

Angel gets her wings

Nun in Fawcett's hometown recalls her as 'first-grader with pigtails'

BY PAULA J. BEATON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Sister Patrice Floyd remembers actress Farrah Fawcett as "a little first-grader with pigtails" at Christ the King School in Corpus Christi, Fawcett's hometown.

Fawcett, who first rose to fame starring on "Charlie's Angels," died in Los Angeles June 25 at age 62 after a three-year battle with cancer. A private funeral Mass was celebrated for her at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles June 30.

A longtime educator, Sister Floyd, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, is a former principal of several Catholic schools in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. She said the Fawcett family lived across the street from Christ the King.

Born Mary Farrah Leni Fawcett on Feb. 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Fawcett was attending the University of Texas in Austin when a movie publicist saw photos of her after she was named one of the 10 most beautiful people on campus, according to an AP story.

The publicist suggested she consider a career in Hollywood and she took him up on it.

After small parts in a couple of TV shows, she was cast on "Charlie's Angels." She remained with the show for just one year, but she became a pop icon in the 1970s.

After leaving the show she starred in a few films that were panned by critics, but her starring role in the 1984 TV movie "The Burning Bed," as a wife who is a victim of domestic abuse, earned her an Emmy nomination.

About the same time she starred in a well-received off-Broadway play, "Extremities," about a woman sexually assaulted in her own home. She played the same part in a 1986 film version.



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE BLAKE, REUTERS

Actress Farrah Fawcett looks up during a tribute to Aaron Spelling during the 58th annual Primetime Emmy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles Aug. 27, 2006. Fawcett died June 25 after a long battle with cancer. She was 62.

In 1973 she married actor Lee Majors, but they divorced nine years later. Since the 1980s she lived off and on with actor Ryan O'Neal, with whom she had one son, Redmond. The couple never married.

Though she was raised a Catholic, her faith never seemed to be a topic of her interviews but as she battled cancer she spoke about praying to God and hoping for a miracle.

In a documentary about her struggle that she produced and which aired on network television in May, she was often shown holding a rosary during her treatments.

Before her death, news reports said a priest came to her hospital room and administered the church's last rites.

Sister Floyd said that when Farrah Fawcett and Majors were in town, they often came by the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent to see two of the older sisters who taught Farrah in school. Both nuns have since died.

The visits were always in the evening and Fawcett wore a disguise, Sister Floyd said. "The press would go wild when she was in town."

Many of the sisters knew the star, the nun said. Sister Collette Brehony, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament who is now director of religious education at St. Gertrude Parish in Kingsville, had been her teacher at St. Patrick School.

"She was shocked the first time she saw her on TV," Sister Floyd said.

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of July, here is a look at Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville.



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Campers ride horses at Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville in this undated black-and-white photograph.

Purchased in January 1956 from the Brandeis Youth Foundation, Our Lady of the Hills Camp consisted of 250 acres just south of Hendersonville. The site included Highland Lake, also known as Madonna Lake; an Olympic-size swimming pool; an open-air gymnasium; the historic Trenholm-Rhett homestead; and many other features.

The property was originally part of a 1789 land grant to John Earle. It belonged to several prominent owners including George Trenholm, secretary of the Confederate Treasury, and William Aiken, former South Carolina governor.

After being purchased by the Diocese of Raleigh, the property was renamed the Catholic Assembly Grounds of North Carolina. The diocese originally intended to use the property for retreats, family vacations, conferences and a summer camp. Later, the property was primarily associated with diocesan youth ministry and Our Lady of the Hills Camp.

Some of the activities offered at the camp included archery, riflery, baseball, swimming, canoeing, dramatics, boxing and horseback riding. Part of the daily camp schedule included morning and evening prayer, Mass and rosary. Priests, religious orders, paid staff and volunteers all contributed to the daily operations of the camp.

Two noteworthy staff members, Carmen and Dorothy Falcone, assisted in running the camp for nearly 30 years. Carmen Falcone worked at Duke University as an assistant professor in the physical education department and coached wrestling and football. His wife Dorothy was a dietician at Duke Hospital.

With the aid of people like the Falcones, Our Lady of the Hills Camp made a positive impact on the surrounding community.

Oct. 19, 1955: Raleigh Bishop Vincent S. Waters purchases land for the Catholic Assembly Grounds.

June 10, 1956: Our Lady of the Hills Camp opens its doors for the first time. From its

inception, the camp was racially integrated, making it the first non-segregated camp in the area.

June 14, 1956: Bishop Waters dedicates the Catholic Assembly Grounds.

Summer 1958: Our Lady of the Hills Camp becomes co-institutional as both boys and girls attend the same camp sessions.

Summer 1965: The camp introduces SCUBA diving as one of the activities.

October 1978: The Diocese of Charlotte Youth Ministry office relocates to Our Lady of the Hills Camp. The camp "winterizes" the former infirmary building for year-round use by youth ministry.

May 1985: The nationally-registered historic Trenholm-Rhett house is torn down due to deterioration. The antebellum homestead built in 1854 housed the camp chapel prior to destruction.

Aug. 16, 1985: The camp's closing ceremony concludes with Mass, a cookout and fireworks. The closure of the camp was a result of financial concerns.

Aug. 22, 1985: The Catholic Assembly Grounds property is sold.

1985: Highland Lake Inn and Conference Center is established on the former Our Lady of the Hills Camp location.

1999: Highland Lake Inn re-opens under new ownership. Our Lady of the Hills statue still remains on site to this day.

"Our Lady of the Hills"

There's a Catholic camp nestled in the mountains so green,

With the wandering trails and the lakes so serene.

Our Lady of the Hills we'll always be true,

This beautiful camp is a blessing from you.

We work and we play in your honor each day,

And the memories will stay as the years pass away.

— from "Our Lady of the Hills Camp: Prayer and Songbook," undated

1934 – 2009 Augustinian Father Anthony J. Tomasulo

Priest remembered for joy-filled attitude toward life, people

CHARLOTTE — Augustinian Father Anthony Joseph Tomasulo, parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, died in his sleep June 11 during an Augustinian convocation in Illinois. He was 75.

Father Tomasulo was born in Elizabeth, N.J., on May 5, 1934. He attended Villanova University in 1953, where he applied for entrance into the Order of St. Augustine. He was received as a novice in September 1955 and, after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate in New Hamburg, N.Y., he professed first vows Sept. 10, 1956.

He then attended Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., for his theological studies. He professed solemn vows in 1959 and was ordained to the priesthood at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington June 3, 1961.

He spent his first few years as an

educator before devoting his ministry to parish work. He served in parishes in New York, Pennsylvania and Florida before becoming parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church in 2007.

Father Tomasulo was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the 1960s. The operation to remove the tumor was successful and left him with an understanding that every day was a gift from God to be enjoyed, celebrated and shared with others.

His appreciation for life gave him a joy-filled sense of humor and an affirming attitude toward every person or situation he encountered.

Father Tomasulo often said his greatest loves were his family, life and experiences of brotherhood as an Augustinian.

His ability to laugh at life and at himself drew others close to him and helped him to minister to them as a friend, brother and priest.

Elementary School Principal (K-5th) Opening

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Boston College	LIM College	University of Arkansas
Brevard College	Marquette University	University of Dayton
Campbell University	Marietta College	University of Florida
Catawba College	Meredith College	University of Georgia
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Morning news that can lead to prayer

Heroes are of all faiths who share integrity with Christ

I like to pray first thing in the morning. It orients my day toward what is meaningful and reminds me what is important.

However, I confess that sometimes the morning newspaper tempts me to break my routine. I only have so much time before I need to dash to work, and when I give in to "just a peak" at the headlines I sometimes end up cutting into time for reflection.

Occasionally, though, I find a quick look at the morning paper actually leads me to prayer, and it was like that Saturday.

Two stories caught my attention. The first was the horrible death of Sarfraz Naeemi, a moderate Muslim cleric in Lahore, Pakistan.

Naeemi was a leading religious figure in the area and had come out in opposition to the Taliban whom he had denounced as murderers. He had condemned suicide bombings as un-Islamic.

Apparently in retribution, he was killed when his seminary and mosque were destroyed by suicide bombers, and the Taliban claimed responsibility.

The second story was on the obituary page. A young woman of 24 years, Thembi Ngubane, had died in South Africa from drug-resistant tuberculosis.

What made her death notable was the way she had lived her young life in Cape Town. Ngubane had AIDS, and in a part of the world where that is still a stigma that people often suffer in silence, Ngubane fought a very public battle with her illness.

She made recordings of events in her life like the first conversation she ever had with her mother about AIDS. She recorded the ordinary, day-to-day routines of living with a disease in a country where drugs are hard to come by despite the fact that nearly a third of young women have AIDS.

Her willingness to speak out publicly brought her to the attention of National Public Radio and to audiences throughout the world.

Now, both Sarfraz Naeemi and Thembi Ngubane, two people of vastly different backgrounds from different parts of the world, are silent. Somehow the world seems a little lonelier because of their passing, and a little more like a place where prayer is in order.

I've just finished a Christology class for the master's degree I'm pursuing, and one of the questions that class brought to the fore was Christ's question to the apostles: "Who do you say that I am?"

When I think of Christ, I always think of a man of integrity who lived

For the Journey

EFFIE
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his life with courage despite the obvious adversity coming his way because of his outspokenness. When he went to Bethany and raised Lazarus, he knew he would draw the attention of the authorities, and sure enough, after Lazarus was raised, Jesus' enemies began to plot how to kill him.

According to John's Gospel (11:54), Jesus went to the town of Ephraim, bordering on the desert, and stayed there a few days. It was there he made his monumental decision to go up to Jerusalem, sealing his fate.

Sarfraz Naeemi made a similar decision when he decided to speak out for the truth of his faith and condemn atrocities. He must have known he was putting his life on the line.

Similarly, Thembi Ngubane threw anonymity to the wind when she let the world know she suffered from a disease dreaded and stigmatized in her country. But by doing so, she opened the door to fresh air, to truth and enlightenment where there are sometimes darkness and shame.

Let us pray for all the world's heroes, for people of all faiths who share the word "integrity" with Christ.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Why are we looking for the loophole?

Capital punishment is becoming an intrinsically evil act that cannot be justified

To the many recent reasons already marshaled against capital punishment — from the multiple examples of wrongful convictions to its expense — now add this: It doesn't work.

Such an appeal to pragmatism supersedes even morality and economy in our time.

Eighty-eight percent of the top criminologists in the United States believe the death penalty is not a deterrent to homicide, according to a study published this month by the Northwestern University School of Law.

"The consensus among criminologists is that the death penalty does not add any significant deterrent effect above that of long-term imprisonment," concluded the study.

Three-quarters of the respondents agreed that debates about the death penalty distract Congress and state legislatures "from focusing on real solutions to crime problems."

Too many people use the fact that Catholic Church teaching does not rule out capital punishment in order to support their position in its favor. True, the church does not rule it out, yet it hardly offers a ringing endorsement.

Catholic teaching accepts the death penalty if it "is the only possible way" of defending lives against an aggressor. But the Catechism of the Catholic Church also notes that "the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare if not practically nonexistent."

Can anyone honestly say that in the American system of justice capital punishment meets that moral standard? Why are we looking for the loophole?

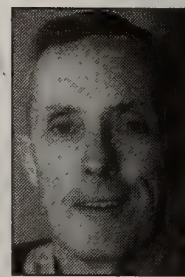
When granting that pinpoint exemption, the catechism didn't have in mind an advanced, first-world country such as the United States with its supermax prisons. Killing the offender might possibly be permissible in nomadic, tribal societies which have no other means of incarceration.

States are legally bound to avoid cruel or unnecessarily painful punishment, said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

This makes it a medical procedure,

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



"so doing all you can means usually having a doctor involved," he said, thus involving yet another organization with its own code of ethics.

The American Medical Association forbids physicians from having any direct role in lethal injections, including "an action which would assist, supervise or contribute to the ability of another individual to directly cause the death of the condemned."

So, is the picture clearing?

An intrinsically evil act is one that is objectively wrong in and of itself, and which therefore can never be justified by circumstances or consequences. Capital punishment in the United States is approaching that definition.

Death penalty advocates who appropriate the catechism's "only when and then if" provisions in their argument are similar to a teenager asking his mother for permission to use the car, and is told to ask his father.

The father's response is: "You may use the car, but only if it is in connection with school or work; you can't go more than 10 blocks from home and have to be back in the driveway at 9:30."

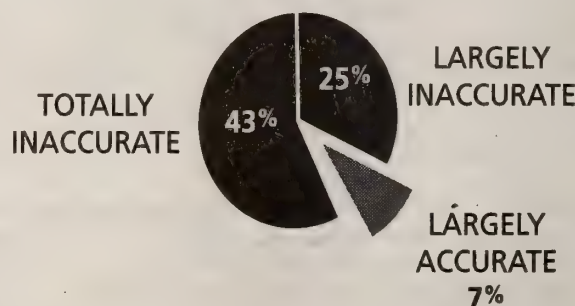
"Mom," the teen says, jingling the keys on the way out, "Dad says it's OK for me to use the car."

The grudging exemption granted by the catechism for highly unusual circumstances stretches beyond any reasonable interpretation that could be taken as granting permission.

The bottom line is that Catholics should not be looking for the loophole to do something that is inconsistent with our Christian view of the value of life and the dignity of the human person.

CRIMINOLOGY EXPERTS do not believe the death penalty effectively deters people from committing murder.

The death penalty significantly reduces the number of homicides.



Source: Northwestern University School of Law's Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

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Contraceptive brochure: 'You are married. Now don't get pregnant'?

Ironic that state gives moral instruction on birth control, while people pay little attention to church's moral teachings

Just when people ought to start making babies, my state tells them how not to.

In the state of Maryland (and probably in other states), when a couple receives their marriage license, the envelope contains a brochure titled "Family Planning for You."

I think it's strange.

Just when couples are morally free and socially responsible enough to create new life, society says, "Wait a minute, do you really want to have that child?" It is as if the state is saying, "You are married. Now don't get pregnant."

This is not a Democratic or Republican thing. Both parties have promoted this.

The brochures were first printed in 2006 under the previous Republican administration. They prominently carried the names of former Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich Jr., and former Republican Lt. Gov. Michael Steele. Steele is the Republican National Committee chairman and a Catholic.

The newer brochures bear the name of current Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who like Steele is Catholic.

Isn't it strange that Catholic officials of both parties are promoting forms of birth control that the church does not consider moral?

Here are Catholics putting their name on a brochure advocating the pill, condoms, sterilization, NuvaRing, Depo Provera, the "diaphragm & spermicide" and the morning-after pill. This last form of birth control is really a chemical abortion.

The brochure's only mention of natural family planning is in a segment called "Fertility Awareness Methods." It accurately states that NFP can be used "to avoid or achieve pregnancy."

But then, unlike all the other forms of birth control, it notes, "You must get special training to use these methods," but it does not say where to get this special training.

The implication is that natural family planning is too complicated for most people, which is not true. And what about the couple? Which of these messages are they meant to take away?

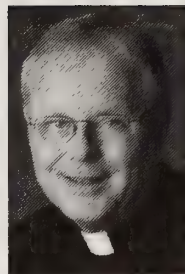
Marriage is a state of life in which couples can and should be open to new life. Yet they are given a worried message of "concern."

Ominously, the state offers questions to be considered: "Am I ready to become a parent? Will I be able to finish school? ... Will I be able to get or keep a decent job with health care benefits for my child and myself?"

Who knows these answers? I doubt

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



my parents did. But as to the question asking essentially if a couple really wants to be a mother or father, the answer ought to be, "Sure, that's why we got married."

Why is the government asking these questions? It seems it is trying to discourage pregnancies among married couples. Isn't it strange that the state sees fit to tell married couples how not to have babies?

One other question about these brochures occurred to me. If the state decides to recognize same-sex marriage, will it give out this same brochure to same-sex couples?

Probably not. And if not, what does that say? Are the two types of relationships really different? If heterosexual relationships and homosexual relationships are not both biologically generative, is that enough difference to treat them differently in law?

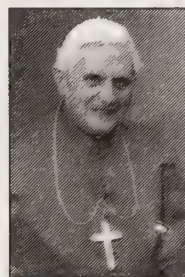
Last summer we marked the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on human life, "Humanae Vitae." It is ironic that the state gives moral instruction on birth control, while people pay little attention to the moral teaching of the church.

This brochure is inappropriate.

More places for prayer, Gospel needed for new vocations, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young men need more places and more opportunities to listen to the word of God and reflect in silence so that they can better hear if God is calling them to the priesthood, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The low number of priestly ordinations in some parts of the world should not lead to discouragement, he said July 1 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Instead it should be the impetus to increase the number of places dedicated "to silence and to listening to the word, and to take better care of spiritual direction and the sacrament of confession so that God's voice, which always continues to call and confirm, may be heard and readily followed by many young people," he said.

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the church's celebration of the Year for Priests, which began June 19.

He said there was a close link between the year of St. Paul, which ended June 28 and the current Year for Priests.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is a close link between the Pauline Year, which concluded last Sunday, and the church's current celebration of the Year for Priests.

As we have seen, St. Paul, in his life and his writings, teaches us that the mystery of Christ must stand at the very heart of our lives as individuals and as a community. This is true in a very special way of priests.

In St. John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, we see a wonderful example of a priest whose person was completely identified with his ministry. The priest's personal identity, grounded in his calling and his sacramental configuration to Christ, may not be separated from his pastoral activity.

Indeed, the ministry of every priest is essentially "cultic" in the fullest sense of the word: it is meant to enable the faithful to offer their lives to God as a pleasing sacrifice (cf. Rom 12:1).

It is my hope that this Year for Priests will help all priests to appreciate the immense grace of their vocation, consecration and mission.

During this year may the whole church pray and work more fervently for the sanctification of priests, an increase of priestly vocations and a greater appreciation of the role of the priest in the life of the ecclesial community.

Forgiven but not yet purified

Sin's toxic effect creates cosmic debt that must be paid, forgiveness not withstanding

God is just. His infinite mercy, however, does not cancel his justice. The toxic effect of our sins creates a cosmic debt that must be paid.

Yes, we are forgiven, but we cannot enjoy the beatific vision until our soul is purified. This is the teaching of the church on purgatory. It is not spelled out fully for us, but we do know that after death a soul is not yet ready for heaven until it is completely purified.

This is where suffering comes in to play.

Suffering, when understood properly, is a great mystery because it can bring many spiritual blessings.

Permit me to pose a hypothetical question to you: Suppose Hitler sincerely asked for God's forgiveness moments before he died. We are certain that the Lord in his infinite mercy would forgive him.

Nevertheless, considering the monumental devastation and misery he caused, Hitler would have to pay in some way an enormous debt for his infamy.

It is like that with us too, even though we have sins not as monumental.

There is a thing called the "temporal punishment due to sin." This is part of the fullness of God's plan.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, continually

asks us to fast and do penance in reparation for the sins of the world. She even warns against future catastrophes if we do not do penance.

Whether you believe in the validity of Mary's urgings or not, you should ponder the fact that millions of people make pilgrimages to Marian shrines all over the world. Many do so to offer their sufferings and humiliations in a spirit of reparation.

God wants us to share in his redemptive action. Even though he has personally forgiven us for our sins, there is still a toxic residue which we call the "temporal punishment due to sin."

As such, the purification of each person's soul is still underway even after death. This concept helps us to understand that suffering is not merely a negative thing; it has a meaningful and fruitful spiritual benefit in terms of eternity.

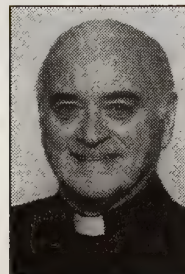
This knowledge helps us cope better with the pains and agonies of this life.

Suffering is the coin that purchased our redemption, for Christ surrendered himself to the Father, taking upon himself the sins of the world. This is what St. Paul means when he tells us to join our suffering to the suffering of Christ.

Suffering is a mystery we do not

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



fully understand, but in the process of purification suffering is key. By our agonies we are able to participate in the Lord's work of redemption.

When I read St. Paul's words, "Help carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Jesus Christ," I see beyond the idea of doing good deeds in this world. I see that suffering is redemptive.

Unhappiness comes to us in life. Good and worthy people suffer more than they deserve. In the cosmic scheme of things, however, by sharing in the cross of Christ we are cleansed.

It is perfectly normal to rebel and ask why we have to suffer, but in the mystery of life we learn that the cross is good. It earns us the gift of heaven.

At some point in the mysterious future, God's justice and mercy will meld, which makes it possible for his mercy to triumph in the end.

So for now be at peace in the knowledge that by offering your pains and humiliations for yourself — and the poor souls in purgatory — you are very pleasing to God.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

In 1891



Bishop Peter J. Jugis invites you to the
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5TH EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Concert of Sacred Music
- Keynote Speaker – Immaculée Ilibagiza
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Brother Milton Lopez
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

K-5 TRACK



Rob Evans
"The Donut Man"

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

O.A.T.H. Brothers and L.I.H.M. Sisters

Loving God is Cool

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Escaping needless guilt;
moderation in all things;
value of money

| PAGES 14-15

A history of unwavering faith

*Our Lady of the
Annunciation
Church celebrates
75th anniversary*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

ALBEMARLE —Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated a special Mass for the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle July 11.

Following the Mass was the dedication of the parish office in honor of Olive Rooney, former parish secretary of more than 30 years, and a dinner to celebrate the church anniversary.

"Everybody who has come here has loved the place," said Father Peter Fitzgibbons, pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church. "It's a marvelous parish."

"Seventy-five years ago, our parish was founded

See PARISH, page 5

To safeguard the human person



CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

A boy looks at empty plates while he waits for food at a Catholic church complex in Manila, Philippines, in March. In his latest encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," Pope Benedict XVI said food and water are the "universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination" and are part of the basic human right to life.

*Pope says moral
values must be part
of economic recovery,
development*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY—Ethical values are needed to overcome the current global economic crisis as well as to eradicate hunger and promote the real development of all the world's peoples, Pope Benedict XVI said in his new encyclical.

The document, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), was dated June 29 and released at the Vatican July 7.

The truth that God is the creator of human life, that every life is sacred, that the earth was given to humanity to use and protect and that God has a plan for each person must be respected in development

See CHARITY, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY JASON REED, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets U.S. President Barack Obama at the Vatican July 10.

The pope and the president

Pope Benedict welcomes Obama to Vatican

TWO DISCUSS BIOETHICS,
G-8 SUMMIT

BY CAROL GLATZ
AND CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The church's position on bioethical issues got marked attention during Pope Benedict XVI's meeting with U.S. President

Barack Obama July 10.

In addition to giving Obama a copy of his latest encyclical, which the pope has been presenting to visiting heads of state since its release July 7, the pope also presented a copy of the Vatican document on biomedical ethics,

See POPE, page 6

Deploring 'unethical guidelines'

*N.C. bishops criticize
expanded NIH
funding rules for stem
cell research*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The bishops of North Carolina have joined the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities in criticizing final guidelines for funding human embryonic stem cell

See STEM CELLS, page 13

Year for Priests

*Diocese of Charlotte launches
Web page on priests*

| PAGE 7

Culture Watch

*Book on saints in Scripture;
Vatican OKs Harry Potter*

| PAGES 10-11

Summer success

*School reading program
helps kids improve*

| PAGE 12

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

STITCHING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS DONAHUE, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Catholic parishioner Clare Liptak displays a few of the donated sewing machines that will be sent to Tanzania to help women there sew clothes for themselves and their families. A member of Mary, Mother of God Church in Hillsborough, N.J., Liptak shipped 30 machines to the African nation in 2008 and hopes this summer to ship 50 more, along with fabric and other sewing supplies.

Parishioner collects sewing machines for poor in Africa

HILLSBOROUGH, N.J. (CNS) — Clare Liptak is combining her Catholic faith with a love of sewing to help the poor in Africa stitch together a better life.

Liptak, a member of Mary, Mother of God Church, collects fabric and sewing machines to send to women in Tanzania to sew clothes for themselves and their families. She and her friend Kathleen "Kat" Wilson have 140 sewing machines in storage at Mary, Mother of God Church and another 19 at Liptak's home.

Liptak shipped 30 machines to Tanzania in 2008. This summer, she hopes to send 50 more along with fabric, sewing supplies, carpentry tools, equipment for a culinary program and children's books. The container being used to ship the items is supposed to be loaded Aug. 7.

The machines remaining in storage are awaiting shipment to poor families in rural Kentucky, she said.

"It is really a lot of fun to do this, and the people who donate are very generous," Liptak said. "Often the machine has been in their family a long time and they want it to be used. They don't want their grandmother's sewing machine to be thrown away."

Liptak traveled to Tanzania in 2008 and plans to return in June 2010.

Liptak and Wilson call their project "Give It Up for Good." They began collecting sewing machines in 2004 to send to the poor in Appalachia.

In 2006, Liptak heard about the daughter of a co-worker who was going on a humanitarian mission to Tanzania coordinated by the Brotherhood of Hope. In 2007, Liptak's interest in Tanzania increased when a visiting priest from that country, Father Venance Ndalichako, spoke during a Mass about his association with schools in that country. After Mass,

Father Ndalichako visited Liptak's home, where she lives with Joe, her husband of 27 years and "No. 1 volunteer."

"Kat and I were in the living room cleaning sewing machines," Liptak said. "I guess Father Ndalichako realized we were serious."

The meeting went so well that Father Ndalichako, who teaches economics at St. Augustine University in Mwanza, Tanzania, served as their tour guide when Liptak and Wilson visited Tanzania in November. He also arranged for them to stay at the home of Bishop Protase Rugambwa, head of the Kigoma Diocese.

Liptak and Wilson visited several schools in Tanzania, including the St. Gaspar Vocational Training Center in Dar es Salaam, which teaches tailoring.

"The principal at St. Gaspar's told us enrollment has increased because of the supplies we sent," Liptak said. "We were really thrilled to have made a difference like that."

Liptak said that the sewing machines make valuable tools in Tanzania, where the unemployment rate in some areas tops 90 percent.

All the machines sent by Liptak are electric, but some of the older models have a treadle, which allows for manual operation. This is important in areas where power outages are frequent, Liptak said.

Liptak said her outreach to Africa and Appalachia is an outgrowth of her faith and a desire to serve the community.

"I also like to sew and I would like to go around the world meeting women who sew. Sewing machines don't seem to be valued much anymore. A lot of people don't sew maybe because clothes are inexpensive, but also because people don't really have time," she added.

Nation called 'fortunate' to have Alabama physician as Obama nominee

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said July 13 she thinks "this nation is so fortunate to have Regina (Benjamin) as surgeon general."

The Daughter of Charity made the comment in reaction to President Barack Obama's announcement earlier that day that he was nominating Dr. Regina Benjamin to be the surgeon general of the United States.

The Senate must confirm the nomination.

Benjamin, a Catholic, is founder and CEO of Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Bayou La Batre, Ala. She is renowned for her outreach to the poor, seeing patients regardless of their ability to pay for her services.

When her clinic was destroyed by Hurricane George in 1998 and again by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Benjamin personally financed its reconstruction.

Benjamin belongs to the Shrine of the Holy Cross Church in Daphne, Ala., a historically African-American parish that her mother helped found.

She holds a medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University in New Orleans.

She was the first African-American woman and the first person under 40 to be elected to the board of trustees of the American Medical Association.

Pope Benedict XVI awarded Benjamin the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, a papal honor, in 2006. She also began a three-year term on the CHA board that year.

Msgr. Michael Farmer, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Ala., said Benjamin was nominated for the papal honor because of "her commitment to her faith as well as for putting her faith into practice."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A summer study on *Women in Church History* will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Wednesdays June 3-July 29 at 10 a.m. The program will be led by Barbara Reagan, retired high school and college history professor with more than 36 years of experience. For more information, call Aida Tamayo at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — The *Summer Bible Institute* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will take place July 20-24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Susan Brady will give an exciting and vivid presentation on the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to register in advance, call Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., July 23 at 7:30 p.m. St. Peregrine has been called the "wonder worker" for his intercession on behalf of those living with

cancer and other life-threatening diseases. He is the patron saint of all who are afflicted by cancer, leg ailments or any incurable diseases, as well as the patron saint of youths at risk. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in Room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

CHARLOTTE — "The Work of Catholic Relief Services in the Holy Land" presented by Cullen Larson, program officer for Advocacy and Peacebuilding of Catholic Relief Services, will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., July 31 from 2 to 3 p.m. This presentation is sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services. To RSVP call (704) 370-3225 or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the CSS food pantry. For more information, visit www.cssnc.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s,

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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JULY 17, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 33

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Tourism is a chance to appreciate diversity God created, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Tourism offers a unique opportunity to encounter the tremendous diversity God created on earth, said the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers in a message for World Tourism Day.

"In contemplating diversity, the human person discovers traces of the divine in the footprints of what is human," the council said in the message signed by the council's president, Archbishop Antonio Maria Veglio, and secretary, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto.

The Vatican released the message July 10 for the celebration sponsored by the U.N. World Tourism Organization. The theme of the Sept. 27 event is "Tourism — Celebrating Diversity."

For people of faith, "differences as a whole open ways by which one can draw near the infinite greatness of God," the message said.

Fear of what is different and fear of the unknown lie at the root of prejudice,

discrimination and misunderstandings between cultures, peoples and religions, it said. Diversity is not a threat or a danger, but an opportunity to be enriched by different cultures, it said.

People must do everything possible "to transform discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance into understanding and mutual acceptance through the roads of respect, education and open, constructive and binding dialogue," said the message.

Tourism puts people in contact with different religions and different ways of living or seeing the world and its history, it said.

Even travelling the World Wide Web is a form of virtual tourism that allows people to observe diversity at a close range and build bridges with those who are different, it said.

The council said it hoped mutual knowledge will build "a more just, supportive and fraternal society."

will begin a 3-week session in July. Theology on Tap is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss church teachings. The series will be held on the third floor of Natty Green's Pub and Brewing Co., 345 S. Elm St. The next session is July 20. Come at 6:45 p.m. to eat and socialize, speaker begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. A 6-week program on the epistles to the Hebrews will be held each Tuesday June 30 through Aug. 4. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The Flames of Fire charismatic prayer group meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2201 West Market St. All those interested in the charismatic way of life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730 or Lorraine Brown (336) 292-5186.

GREENSBORO — The health care ministry at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., is teaming up with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to offer a 12-week course for family and/or caregivers of individuals with mental illnesses. The free course will be held at the church on Thursdays from Sept. 3 through Nov. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Class size will be limited. For more information or to register, call Frank or Pat Cleary at (336) 286-2603. Participants must register before Aug. 6.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Are you interested in learning about your Irish heritage? The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians welcome all women who are practicing Roman Catholics and who are

Irish by birth or descent, or who are wives of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians or mothers of junior members. We will be starting a new division in the Huntersville, Denver and Mooresville areas. To learn more, contact Janice Donahue at (704) 249-9161 after 7 p.m. weekdays or e-mail ladydonahue@gmail.com.

MOORESVILLE — L.A.F. with God, a young adult group for Catholics ages 18-35, meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in Room 202 of the Parish Life Center at St. Therese of Lisieux Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. All are welcome. Activities include Theology on Tap, fellowship and yoga. For more information, call (704) 664-3992.

SALISBURY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, an organization comprised of Catholic men of Irish birth or descent, will be forming a new division in the Salisbury area. If you are 16 years or older and are proud of you Irish heritage and are interested in your Catholic faith and Irish culture, contact Joe Dougherty, NC state AOH Organizer, at (704) 942-6345 or e-mail uniteire@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Doctrinal congregation says direct abortion can never be justified

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Commenting on the controversial case of a 9-year-old Brazilian rape victim who underwent an abortion, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the concern the church needs to show the girl does not change the fact that abortion is wrong.

In declaring that the doctors and others who were involved in helping the girl procure an abortion automatically incurred excommunication, the church does not intend to deny the girl mercy and understanding, said the statement published in the July 11 edition of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano.

The penalty of excommunication "places in evidence the gravity of the crime committed (and) the irreparable damage caused to the innocent who was killed, to the parents and to all of society," the statement said.

In early March doctors at a hospital in Recife performed an abortion on the girl, who was pregnant with twins, weighed a little more than 66 pounds and reportedly had been raped repeatedly by her stepfather from the time she was 6 years old. Abortion in Brazil is illegal except in cases of rape or if the mother's life is in danger.

Interviewed by the media after the abortion, then-Archbishop Jose Cardoso Sobrinho of Olinda and

Recife noted that abortion always was a sin and that, according to canon law, anyone participating in the abortion — including the girl's mother and her doctors — would automatically incur excommunication.

In the midst of expressions of outrage from around the world over what appeared to be a lack of pastoral concern and compassion for the girl, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, head of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the church's first reaction should have been to minister to the girl.

The girl "should have been defended, hugged and held tenderly to help her feel that we were all on her side," said Archbishop Fisichella.

The doctrinal congregation said the statements from church leaders led to some confusion about the position of the church.

"In this regard, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirms that the doctrine of the church on procured abortion has not and cannot change," the statement said.

To deliberately abort a fetus is to kill an innocent human being, it said, but said that performing an abortion to save a mother's life is different from carrying out a medical procedure that may have the side effect of causing a miscarriage as long as the death of the fetus was not the goal of the intervention.

Refreshing the spirit



CNS PHOTO BY L' OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI walks with other church officials in the Italian Alpine village of Les Combes July 13 as he arrives for his annual vacation. The pontiff will stay in a chalet near the French border with a view of Mont Blanc until July 29.

During his Angelus July 12, the pope called on vacationers to drive safely and asked that they use their time off to renew body and soul and grow closer to God.

He said he was praying for those on vacation or pilgrimages, that they would find "refreshment in body and spirit and an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

July 26 (11 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Bernadette Mission, Linville

Aug. 2 (12 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

Aug. 4 (6 p.m.)
Priest and seminarian gathering
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 5 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Discernment day
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Finding refuge and support



COURTESY PHOTO

Ep Ka (left), a Montagnard refugee from Vietnam, sits with his family in their new apartment in Charlotte July 6. The family relocated to Charlotte with the help of Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office. Also pictured are (from left) siblings Nu, Ja and Tha and their mother Tuyen.

Auditors help welcome refugee family to Charlotte

MONTAGNARDS ARRIVE THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

CHARLOTTE — Employees from the accounting firm Deloitte and Touche recently put down their calculators and picked up furniture to help a local refugee family.

Fifteen employees from the firm's Charlotte office, which serves as the external auditor for the Diocese of Charlotte, worked with the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services to set up a two-bedroom apartment for Ep Ka, a Montagnard farmer now living in Charlotte, in preparation for the arrival of his family from Vietnam.

The June 5 effort was part of the firm's annual "IMPACT Day," in which Deloitte and Touche employees perform service projects in their communities.

Montagnards, from the French for "from the mountain," are indigenous people of Vietnam's Central Highlands who assisted U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War.

Ka was forced to flee his family and homeland two years ago under threat of imprisonment by the communist government for being a "nonviolent protestor." Traveling by night and hiding in the jungle by day, he fled across the border to a refugee camp in Cambodia.

He was eventually interviewed by the U. S. State Department and referred to CSS's Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte. Upon arriving in the United States, Ka shared an apartment with

several other Montagnard men who had been resettled in Charlotte through the Refugee Resettlement Office.

Ka worked daily at the job the office acquired for him, but his ambitions centered on reuniting with his wife and three children and establishing a new home for them in the United States.

Finally in May 2009, Ka received word that his family would arrive in Charlotte June 17. The Refugee Resettlement Office helped him locate a two-bedroom apartment, but needed assistance with furnishing it.

The Deloitte and Touch employees helped set up donated furniture, connected the washer and dryer, and stocked the kitchen with necessities and culturally-appropriate foods. The employees also presented Ka's family with a gift card to buy needed clothing.

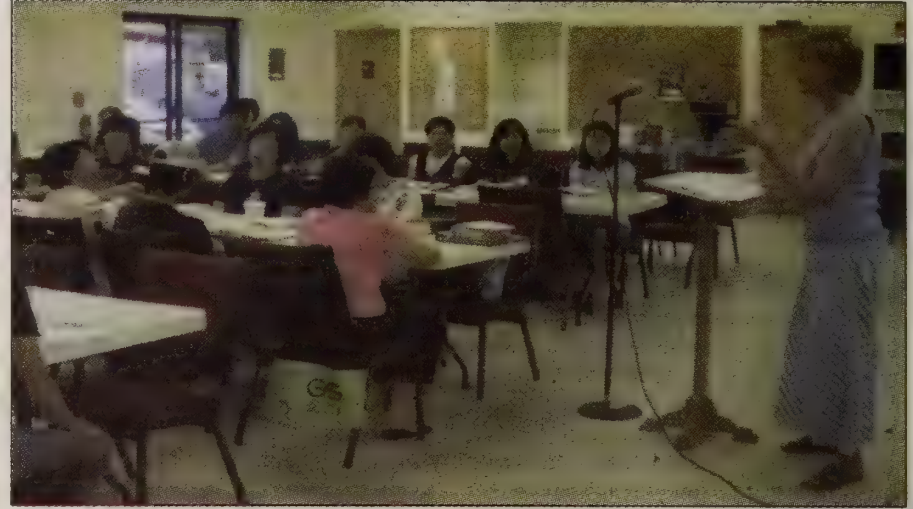
"At the end of the day, I felt really good about the work I had done and the happiness we had brought for someone and their family who greatly needed our help and support," said employee Kira Parker.

Because of a decrease in donated items and funding cuts, the Refugee Resettlement Office is in critical need of groups willing to help set up apartments for other new refugees. Office members will offer step-by-step guidance in the process and preparation.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about or on assisting the Refugee Resettlement Office, contact Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3283 or mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

Approaching Scripture



COURTESY PHOTO

Connie Milligan, former faith formation director at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, leads a Scripture workshop for catechists and parishioners at St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte June 30. The workshop was designed to help Catholics use the exegetical approach to understanding the Bible, meaning that the Scriptures' authors were inspired by the Holy Spirit so that the texts convey a divine revelation. The approach analyzes the literary genre, the culture of the audience, the writers' historical purposes and the transcendent meaning of the text. During the workshop, participants compared the English translations with their Korean-language Bibles.

Growing in faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Jose Antonio Juya, Gastonia Vicariate coordinator of diocesan Hispanic ministry, stands with the 50 children who received their first Communion at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia May 2. The Eucharist is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and confirmation.

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FROM THE COVER

Parish celebrates 75th anniversary in Albermarle

PARISH, from page 1

as a beacon of the faith in Stanly County," wrote Father Fitzgibbons in the 75th anniversary edition of the church directory.

"Despite trial and trouble, this light has not gone out but has grown in beauty. Our parish has seen consistent growth, not only in numbers but most importantly in faith," he wrote.

"It is the great people of God who have really kept this parish together. They fought to retain their faith and it is very dear to them," said Father Fitzgibbons. "They do not take it for granted."

"It is the great people of God who have really kept this parish together. They do not take (their faith) for granted."

— Father Peter Fitzgibbons

Church history

The first Catholic residents arrived in the area in 1887.

From then until 1934, visiting priests celebrated Mass in Stanly County. During that period many families traveled by train to Salisbury to attend religious services.

The first Masses were celebrated in a frame house on North Second Street, that was purchased for \$5,000.

The building served as the rectory until 1941. During those years Father James Cowan celebrated Mass in the living room until a monetary gift from Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in New York made the first church possible.

The building was completed Sept. 1, 1934 and dedicated Sept. 4. At that time, the congregation consisted of nine Catholic families.

The growing textile industry brought more Catholics to the area and the parish grew modestly to 35 families by the mid-1940s.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured with members of the Daughters of Mary at the reception following the 75th anniversary Mass of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albermarle July 11.

When the church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1959, there were 75 families. Today there are 320 families, including a large population of Hmong and Hispanic parishioners.

Highlights

In 1966 the parish hall was constructed, giving parishioners a place to hold religious education classes as well as host social events.

By 1970 it became apparent that the church could no longer accommodate the 102 families who attended services.

Funding for the new church began with a generous contribution from the estate of Father Cowan, who had served as pastor from 1934 to 1968, and his late mother, Margaret Cowan.

The building, which was designed to hold 380 parishioners, was dedicated by Raleigh Bishop Vincent S. Waters July 31, 1971.

The former church was donated to the Albermarle Junior Women's Club and moved to Rock Creek Park where it is used by various community organizations.

In 1984 the church celebrated its golden jubilee. In 1989 a mission, Our Lady of the Americas, was established in Biscoe. In 1990 then Bishop Michael J. Begley dedicated the newly-built family life center in Albermarle.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Family Life Office
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Diocese of Charlotte



You Are Invited to Attend:

The Work of Catholic Relief Services in the Holy Land

presented by

Mr. Cullen Larson,
Program Officer for Advocacy and
Peacebuilding, Catholic Relief Services

Where: 1st Floor, Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 (visitor parking is available in the satellite parking lot at the corner of South Church and West Palmer Streets).

When: Friday, July 31, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

You are kindly asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry of Catholic Social Services.

RSVP to by **Wednesday, July 29:**

704-370-3225, justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

Refreshments will be served.



Mr. Cullen Larson

A brief bio of the presenter and background information on CRS and its projects in the Holy Land can be found at www.cssnc.org.

Sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, Diocese of Charlotte

FROM THE COVER

Pope, Obama discuss bioethics, G-8 summit

POPE, from page 1

"Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person").

When presenting the gifts after their 35-minute closed-door meeting, the pope gave Obama a signed, white leather-bound copy of the encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), then gave him the light-green soft-cover instruction on bioethics issued last December by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Oh, what we discussed earlier," said Obama, referring to their closed-door discussions. "I will have some reading to do on the plane."

Obama was given the instruction to help him better understand the church's position on bioethics, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, papal secretary, told journalists in the pool covering the visit.

Obama arrived at the Vatican shortly before 4 p.m., and a squad of Swiss Guards saluted him in the St. Damasus Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, prefect of the papal household, was the first to greet the president, and he accompanied Obama to a meeting with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

Pope Benedict and Obama sat at a desk in the papal library and discussed the Group of Eight summit — the meeting of the world's wealthy industrialized countries, which concluded that morning in L'Aquila, Italy. The summit focused on the economic crisis, climate change and global tensions.

After the pope welcomed Obama, the president said: "Thank you so much. It's a great honor for me. Thank you so much."

Pope Benedict told the president, "You must be tired after all these discussions."

Obama responded that the meetings were "very productive" and marked "great progress" and "something concrete," although the precise topic they were discussing at that point was unclear.

The pope and Obama discussed issues that represent "a great challenge for the future of every nation and for the true progress of peoples, such as the defense and promotion of life and the right to abide by one's conscience," according to a Vatican statement released after the audience.

The two men also discussed world issues addressed at the G-8 summit, as well as immigration and the issue of reuniting families, the Vatican statement said.

The meeting with the pope and a separate 20-minute meeting with Cardinal Bertone also touched on international politics, such as the peace process in the Middle East, "on which there was general agreement."

"Dialogue between cultures and religions, the global economic crisis and its ethical implications, food security, development aid — especially for Africa and Latin America — and the problem

of drug trafficking" were discussed, the Vatican said.

"Finally, the importance of educating young people everywhere in the value of tolerance was highlighted," it said.

At the end of the meeting, Pope Benedict told the president, "A blessing on all your work and also for you."

The president responded: "Thank you very much. We look forward to building a strong relationship between our countries."

Exchanging ideas, gifts

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters after the audience that "great serenity and great cordiality" characterized the meeting. Father Lombardi said he spoke with the pope after the meeting and the pope "seemed extremely satisfied with how the meeting went."

"The president explicitly expressed his commitment to reducing the numbers of abortions and to listen to the church's concerns on moral issues," he said.

Denis McDonough, deputy national security adviser for strategic communications and a member of Obama's entourage, later spoke to reporters about many of the points in the Vatican statement, adding that the two men also discussed Cuba, Honduras and outreach to Muslim communities.

"I think the president was eager to listen to the Holy Father, was obviously eager to learn more about his views" on issues such as abortion and stem cells, he said.

McDonough said the president asked the pope to pray for his family and expressed his appreciation for the role Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was playing in trying to resolve the political crisis in his country after the June 28 coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya.

After their closed-door meeting, Obama introduced the pope to his wife, Michelle, their daughters, Malia and Sasha, and Michelle Obama's mother, Marian Robinson.

There was a private exchange of gifts and a moment for photographs. The pope gave each of the girls a silver key chain with a bas-relief image of the pope, and Michelle Obama and Robinson received papal medals.

Obama's entourage also included Gen. James Jones, national security adviser; Mona Sutphen, White House deputy chief of staff; Robert Gibbs, White House press secretary; and David Axelrod, senior adviser to the president.

In addition to the encyclical and Vatican bioethics document, Pope Benedict gave Obama a mosaic showing St. Peter's Basilica and Square and a medal marking the fifth year of his pontificate.

The president told the pope the mosaic, which was made in the Vatican's mosaic studio, "was very beautiful" and would have "a place of honor" in the White House.

Obama gave the pope a liturgical stole that had been on the remains of St. John Neumann, the first U.S. male citizen to be proclaimed a saint.



CNS PHOTO BY JASON REED, REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, meet with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican July 10.

St. John Neumann, Philadelphia's fourth bishop, is enshrined in a glass casket under an altar at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia. New vestments have been placed on his remains four times since his 1860 death — in 1903, 1962, 1989 and 2008.

The pope thanked the president for the gift and looked very pleased, saying the saint had been "a wonderful person."

The saint was a Redemptorist priest, and the Baltimore province of the order gave Obama the stole, which had been removed from the casket in 2008.

Father Lombardi told pool reporters that giving the pope such a relic was "a sign of care, of sensitivity."

Possibility for good

Patrick Whelan, president of Catholic Democrats, told Catholic News Service in Rome July 10 that with Obama's visit and the nomination of Miguel Diaz, a theologian, as ambassador to the Holy See, "I think there is a new era about to be launched — a positive, productive one."

"I think people at the Vatican realize he has some grounding in Catholic social teaching" and that he is able to mobilize and motivate young people for good, Whelan said.

On the issue of abortion, "Obama has taken a third way — the whole

abortion-reduction strategy is not just window dressing," he said. "I think they (Obama administration officials) are very committed to doing something to reduce abortions without resorting to criminalization."

Whelan said studies have shown that poverty has a huge impact on abortion rates and "I think the best thing for the unborn was Obama's economic stimulus package."

McDonough said Obama had been influenced by Catholic social teaching and by Catholic social service programs, particularly when he worked with Catholic-funded programs as a community organizer in Chicago.

Speaking as a Catholic, the deputy said, "The president, in both his words and in his deeds, expresses many things that many Catholics recognize as fundamental to our teaching."

"One is that the president often refers to the fundamental belief that each person is endowed with dignity," he said, adding that Obama "often underscores that dignity of people is a driving goal in what we hope to accomplish in development policy, for example, and in foreign policy."

Contributing to this story was Patricia Zapor in Washington.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Diocese of Charlotte launches Year for Priests Web page

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — The priesthood is receiving special recognition on the Diocese of Charlotte's Web site.

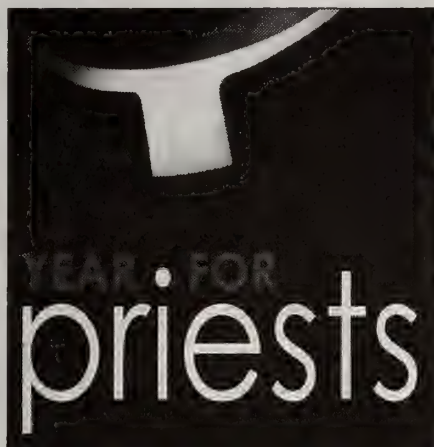
Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2009 through June 2010 as the Year for Priests, a time to recognize the important roles that priests play in the life of the church.

"The centrality of Christ brings with it the correct appreciation of the ministerial priesthood, without which there would be neither the Eucharist, nor even the mission nor the church herself," the pope said in announcing the year.

He called for the dates to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, who was famed for his priestly ministry.

The Diocese of Charlotte has set up an interactive Web page that will allow visitors to share stories of their experiences with priests and gratitude for their sacramental, spiritual and pastoral leadership.

The page also will feature videos relating to the Year for Priests, personal



essays on the priesthood and a link to information about vocations in the diocese.

The diocese is served by approximately 144 active and retired diocesan and religious order priests.

WANT MORE INFO?

To visit the Year for Priests page, visit www.charlottediocese.org.

Priest appointed pastor of St. Eugene Church

ASHEVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis has appointed Father Edward Sheridan as pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville and administrator of Asheville Catholic School.

The appointment of Father Sheridan will take effect Aug. 1.

Although Fr. Sheridan is coming out of retirement for the assignment, he said he is delighted to return to full-time ministry and looks forward to many years of service to the church and school in Asheville.

Father Sheridan has been a priest for 46 years. Ordained to the priesthood in 1963, he is 71 years old.

He has served as pastor of numerous parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, including in Asheville, Charlotte, Hickory and Winston-Salem.

He served as the first superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese. He also has served as school administrator at three diocesan high schools and has been involved with parish-based schools for many years.

Duty and dignity

Lectures explore church's views on human rights, common good

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — The Catholic Church's understanding of human rights and the common good were recently explored at lectures throughout the diocese.

Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski, an associate professor of philosophy at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York, returned to the diocese for the fifth consecutive year to speak on the topic at parishes in Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville and Winston-Salem.

"I hope to give a sense of what the position in the Catholic Church is and how it differs from secular discourse," said Father Koterski during his lecture at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville June 29.

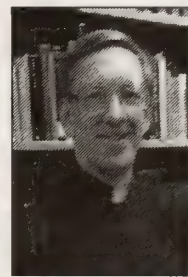
The priest's lectures, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, utilized passages from the Catechism of the Catholic Church; the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace's Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, which provides a concise and complete overview of the church's social teaching; and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person"), which addresses a range of bioethics issues including stem cell therapies, embryo experimentation and infertility treatments.

Father Koterski also explored the relationships between ethics, the nature of the human person and reality as a whole.

"Utilitarian and libertarian meanings refer to the common good as the sum total of the individual good. Often the same words are used, but they mean different things," he said.

In the catechism, "common good" is used not just to refer to individual interests. The church uses the term "common good" to refer to the public good, where it is good for everyone."

In regard to political and moral discussions, Father Koterski referred to the fundamental doctrine of duty to God and others as opposed to the secular principle of maximizing pleasure



Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski

and minimizing pain.

"Our human rights are inextricably paired with our duties," said Father Koterski. "Dignity comes with human nature."

To deal with current societal issues, it becomes a moral obligation to address the issues of the common good through church teachings, he said.

Within the last century the church began to address the idea of human rights as well as Christian duty. Father Koterski said there is continued work underway to provide answers for Catholics facing secular positions that call into question the Christian response to issues such as abortion, capital punishment and other global concerns.

By focusing on the concept of humans made in the likeness of God, Father Koterski compared and contrasted the differences between the morality, anthropology and reality of the church and the secular world.

"The church should teach with much clarity what the principles are, but the church is not responsible for solutions," said Father Koterski.

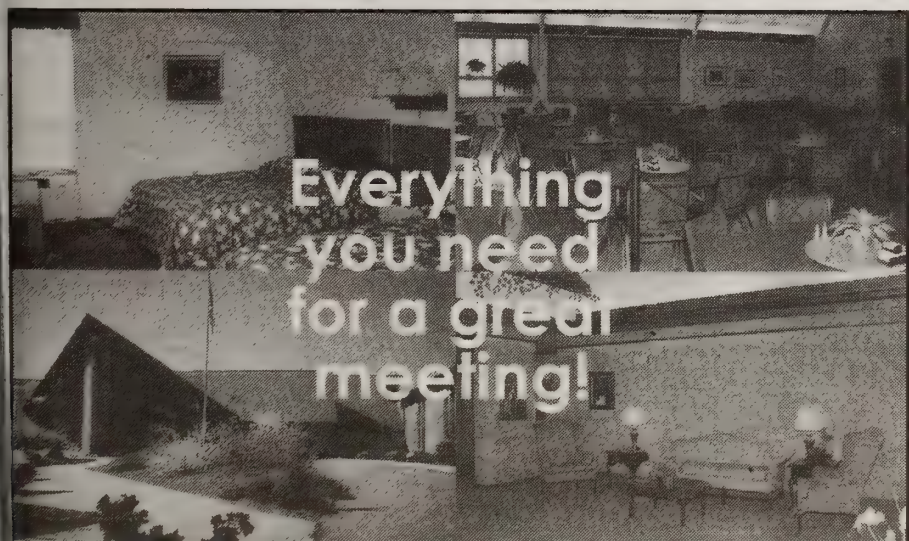
However, he noted the efforts made to bring these principles to fruition for the benefit of society.

"The Catholic social system has devised some wonderful systems including hospitals and schools," he said.

As societal changes continue to challenge Catholics to remain faithful to church teachings in a world focusing more on the immediate rather than the immortal, Father Koterski said our rights and responsibilities become more entwined.

The need to reinforce the church's position is being addressed from within the hierarchy, but ultimately, said Father Koterski, it is with each person that church doctrine will find its way into the community forums.

"You have to be able to state your opinion," said Father Koterski. "It only works if you speak up to the public domain."



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Ric Starnes - parishioner, St. James The Greater

Pope says moral values must be part of

CHARITY, from page 1

programs and in economic recovery efforts if they are to have real and lasting benefits, the pope said.

Charity, or love, is not an option for Christians, he said, and "practicing charity in truth helps people understand that adhering to the values of Christianity is not merely useful, but essential for building a good society and for true integral development," he wrote.

Critiquing the crisis

In addressing the global economic crisis and the enduring poverty of the world's poorest countries, he said, "the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity."

The global dimension of the financial crisis is an expression of the moral failure of greedy financiers and investors, of the lack of oversight by national governments and of a lack of understanding that the global economy required internationally recognized global control, Pope Benedict said.

"In the face of the unrelenting growth of global interdependence, there is a strongly felt need, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of the United Nations organization, and likewise of economic institutions and international finance, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth," the pope wrote.

"To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that

would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority," he said.

Pope Benedict insisted that the idea of the world's richest nations scaling back development aid while focusing on their own economic recovery overlooked the long-term economic benefits of solidarity and not simply the human and Christian moral obligation to help the poor.

"In the search for solutions to the current economic crisis, development aid for poor countries must be considered a valid means of creating wealth for all," the pope said.

The economic growth of poorer countries and their citizens' demands for consumer goods actually benefit producers in the world's wealthier nations, he said.

The pope said that "more economically developed nations should do all they can to allocate larger portions of their gross domestic product to development aid," respecting the obligations they made to the U.N. Millennium Development Goals aimed at significantly reducing poverty by 2015.

Life matters

Pope Benedict said food and water are the "universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination" and are part of the basic right to life.

He also said that being pro-life means being pro-development, especially given the connection between poverty and infant mortality, and that the only way to promote the true development of people is to promote a culture in which every human life is



CNS PHOTO BY ANDREW BIRAL, REUTERS

A child carries away rubbish after his slum was demolished by order of the government in Dhaka, Bangladesh, June 21. In his latest encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), Pope Benedict XVI said an anti-life mentality in the world's richest countries is related to the lack of concern for the poor.

welcomed and valued.

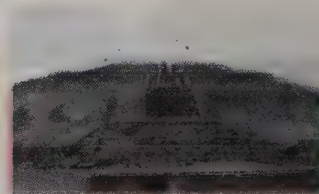
"The acceptance of life strengthens moral fiber and makes people capable of

mutual help," he said.

He said the environment, life, sexuality, marriage and social relations

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are inextricably united.

If society does not respect human life from its conception to its natural end, "if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology," he said.

Development programs and offers of aid that encourage coercive population-control methods and the promotion of abortion do not have the good of people at heart and limit the recipients' motivation to become actors in their own development and progress,

the pope said.

In addition, he said, an anti-life mentality in the world's richest countries is related to the lack of concern for the poor.

"How can we be surprised by the indifference shown toward situations of human degradation when such indifference extends even to our attitude toward what is and is not human?" the pope asked.

"While the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is

human," he said.

Better business

Pope Benedict also emphasized church teaching that making money and being wealthy are not sins, but that the way the money is made and the way it is used can be.

The encyclical condemned corruption, the exploitation of workers, the destruction of the environment, the continuing practice of wealthy nations imposing such high tariffs on imports that they shut poor countries out of the international marketplace and, especially, an "excessive zeal" for enforcing patents, especially on

"The primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity."

— Pope Benedict XVI

medications that could save the lives of thousands of poor people if they were available at a reasonable cost.

Pope Benedict called for "a profoundly new way of understanding business," which recognizes that investors are not a company's only stakeholders, no matter how the business is structured and financed.

Employees, those who produce the raw materials, people who live in the communities where the company is based, where its products originate and where its products are sold all have a stake in the business, the pope said.

He also said that investing always has a moral as well as an economic significance.

"What should be avoided is a speculative use of financial resources that yields to the temptation of seeking only short-term profit without regard for the long-term sustainability of the enterprise, its benefit to the real economy and attention to the advancement — in suitable and appropriate ways — of further economic initiatives in countries in need of development," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

The English version of "Caritas in Veritate" can be found on the Vatican Web site at www.vatican.va.

Read Stephen Kent's perspective on "Caritas in Veritate" on page 14.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Texas author's book links saints to Scripture

BY ANGELA CAVE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Theresa Doyle-Nelson couldn't find any books about saints mentioned in the Bible.

So she wrote one herself.

"It dawned on me: Maybe this is my book to write," Doyle-Nelson said.

Setting out to do research, she found the Internet rife with mediocre information, with one Web site even canonizing Adam and Eve. Starting from scratch, she used a list of saints from "Butler's Lives of the Saints" published in 1756, and did her own investigating.

The result is the author's first book, "Saints of the Bible," which was published in March. The saints are arranged by church feast days starting with Mary, the mother of God, on Jan. 1 and ending with the Holy Innocents on Dec. 28.

Each saint's history is briefly chronicled and accompanied by Bible verse references.

Doyle-Nelson, a former elementary schoolteacher, said she kept the book at about a fifth-grade reading level.

"I don't like things that get too lofty

or sophisticated," she told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview.

Reviewers and readers have responded positively to its brevity and simplification of a complex topic. After its first two weeks on shelves, 800 copies were sold. One of her Protestant friends had never heard the story of St. Raphael the Archangel — patron of young people, peacefulness and healing — until reading her book because the saint is only mentioned in the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament.

She said several readers have enjoyed reading about lesser-known saints.

In addition to informing adults, "Saints of the Bible" would serve as a resource for confirmation candidates, Doyle-Nelson said. Her Web site, <http://theresadoyle-nelson.com>, features teaching tools she created to correspond with the book.

Doyle-Nelson has written about Catholicism for journals and magazines for 12 years, covering such topics as house churches in the New Testament, religious art and Mary's queenship. She lives in Pipe Creek, Texas, with her husband and three sons.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY, 10, 2009

July 26, Seventeenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalm 145: 10-11, 15-18
Ephesians 4:1-6
Gospel: John 6:1-15

Faith in God will provide more than we can imagine

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend Dave, a microbiologist, was preparing for a lab experiment last week. He tried to explain his task to me in laymen's terms, and I think I understood, sort of.

Basically it was this: Certain microbes, if introduced into a certain environment, would alter it through the action of their normal life function.

Dave said he spent hours calculating how many microbes to use in this experiment. He decided to check his conclusion by trying to examine these microbes under a microscope, although he didn't expect to see much since their natural setting blurs the image.

But he accidentally mis-set the microscope and was surprised to get a clear look. What he saw was that this microbial community was exponentially thicker than previously believed.

His numbers were way off.

Dave was amused and gratified. "It just goes to show you that God has so much more for us than we can

ever imagine!" he said.

A scientist of abiding faith, Dave knows the truth revealed in this weekend's Scriptures. Elisha's barley loaves provide for more people than seems possible. Jesus' miraculous multiplication of the five loaves and two fish feeds more than 5,000 men.

In each case there was plenty left over too.

God provides for our need and has more besides — more than we can imagine.

Yes, it is hard to imagine how Jesus can make five loaves of bread satisfy 5,000 people. But knowing how isn't what's important for our faith. What's important is knowing that God can do it and God chooses to do it.

God doesn't gather from some supply. God creates — infinitely. That is who God is.

God also is Love. So God gives to us — infinitely.

God even shares with us his act of creating! Endless new music is created every day — drawn from a bottomless well of ideas that also enter the minds of countless artists, writers, scientists, chefs, teachers, etc., for generations.

For our part, we are called to trust in what God places in our lives for the sake of his life and to receive and share his creation in the spirit of love through which he offers it.

Questions:

What has God provided in your life that has been "more than you could imagine" from him? How have you accepted and shared such gifts?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said" (2 Kings 4:44).

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Founder of "40 Days for Life"



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include the greater Charlotte area, with 1,000 participants saving the lives of 150 innocent babies. David is the Executive Director of Coalition for Life and is a popular pro-life speaker who will inspire you with his message of hope.

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Room At The Inn, Inc. is a maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in the Charlotte, N.C. region. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19-25

Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 23:1-6, Ephesians 2:13-18, Mark 6:30-34; Monday (St. Apollinaris), Exodus 14:5-18 Exodus 15:1-6, Matthew 12:38-42; Tuesday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi), Exodus 14:21-15:1, Exodus 15:8-10, 12, 17, Matthew 12:46-50; Wednesday (St. Mary Magdalene), Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15, John 20:1-2, 11-18; Thursday (St. Bridget of Sweden), Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, Daniel 3:52-56, Matthew 13:10-17; Friday (St. Sharbel Makhlof), Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 13:18-23; Saturday (St. James), 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26-AUG. 1

Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 4:42-44, Ephesians 4:1-6, John 6:1-15; Monday, Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34, Matthew 13:31-35; Tuesday, Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28, Matthew 13:36-43; Wednesday (St. Martha), Exodus 34:29-35, John 11:19-27; Thursday (St. Peter Chrysologus), Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38, Matthew 13:47-53; Friday (St. Ignatius of Loyola), Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, Matthew 13:54-58; Saturday (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Leviticus 25:1, 8-17, Matthew 14:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 2-8

Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15, Ephesians 4:17, 20-24, John 6:24-35; Monday, Numbers 11:4-15, Matthew 14:13-21; Tuesday (St. John Mary Vianney), Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 14:22-36; Wednesday (Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome), Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; Thursday (Transfiguration of the Lord), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Mark 9:2-10; Friday (St. Sixtus II and Companions St. Cajetan), Deuteronomy 4:32-40, Matthew 16:24-28; Saturday (St. Dominic), Deuteronomy 6:4-13, Matthew 17:14-20.



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Friday, August 14 — 6:45 pm

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, Winston Salem

Choirs of Immaculate Conception and St. Cecilia's, Baltimore

Saturday, August 15 — 6:45 pm

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, Charlotte

Sunday Mass, August 16 — 10 am

St. Helen Catholic Church, Spencer Mountain

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Movie magic



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Daniel Radcliffe stars as Harry Potter, Emma Watson as Hermione Granger and Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

Vatican newspaper praises values in new Harry Potter film

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper gave the new Harry Potter movie four stars for promoting "friendship, altruism, loyalty and self-giving."

As "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" was set to open worldwide July 15, L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, once again downplayed concerns that the film and book series by J.K. Rowling promote magic and witchcraft.

"Certainly, Rowling's vision lacks a reference to transcendence, to a providential design in which people live their personal histories and history itself takes shape," the paper said in its July 14 edition.

But, it said, the new film and the books make clear "the line of demarcation between one who does good and one who does evil, and it is not difficult for the reader or the viewer to identify with the first."

"This is particularly true in the latest film," the review said. "They know that doing good is the right thing to do. And

they also understand that sometimes this involves hard work and sacrifice."

The magic in Harry Potter is similar to the magic found "in classic fairy tales," it said.

When the book is finished or the film credits roll, what is remembered are "the values of friendship, altruism, loyalty and self-giving" rather than the magic tricks, the newspaper said.

L'Osservatore said the film "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth Harry Potter film, is the best adaptation so far.

"As the characters—now adolescents on the threshold of adulthood—have grown, the tone of the story has as well, and the film benefits," it said.

The Vatican newspaper said the fact that the teen stars are starting to experience a bit of romance, "with the right balance, makes them more credible" because "they are called to face the same problems as their 'Muggle' peers."

In the Harry Potter series "Muggles" are people not endowed with magical powers.

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Summer success



COURTESY PHOTO

Students use computers at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem July 1 during a session of the school's Read Naturally summer program.

School program helps students' reading skills

WINSTON-SALEM — The computer lab at St. Leo the Great School was a busy place of learning this summer.

The lab hosted a summer reading enrichment course based on Read Naturally, a research-based program that combines teacher modeling, repeated reading and assessment and monitoring to improve oral reading fluency and reading comprehension.

Fourth-grade teacher Patti Eiffe, second-grade teacher Lindsay Hodgson and librarian and French teacher Christine Hurley assisted 52 students during the 1-hour sessions over the 5-week course June 16 through July 16.

"We have a variety of students with a wide range of needs this summer," said Eiffe. "Some students are already reading above their grade levels, but the practice that this program provides — and the high interest level of the non-fiction stories of the program — keep them motivated to make even further improvements."

Eiffe said the program also served students who may be struggling with reading.

"They range from rising first-graders to rising eighth-graders. The program is flexible enough to meet their needs, whether for help with specific phonetic patterns or with oral reading fluency and comprehension," said Eiffe.

The program is in its fourth summer at the school and continues to grow.

"Some of our students are St. Leo students who also use the program during the school year," said Hodgson. "But increasingly, we are reaching out

to other children in our local parishes and communities to help students who don't have access to the program in their own schools."

This summer, English is a second language for many of the students who participated.

"The practice that the program provides, and the opportunity to 'read along' with a proficient reader, gives them the chance to build their confidence and their skills," said Eiffe.

St. Leo the Great Church sponsored 17 of the 52 students in this summer's program.

"Thanks to the generosity of St. Leo parish, we are able to offer scholarships to children who can really benefit from the program, but would not be able to afford the tuition," said Hodgson.

Helping students to improve is what drives the teachers involved.

"What means the most to us is seeing the glow in a child's eyes when he or she first experiences reading success," said Hurley.

"During one of our sessions, a rising eighth-grader brought his mom who spoke no English into our lab to watch him work and see the progress he was making," said Hurley. "When we saw the pride on her face and his — well, that made our whole summer worthwhile."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about St. Leo the Great School or any of the 18 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html.

1923 — 2009: The Honorable Robert Daniel Potter

Catholic judge remembered for humility, courage, commitment

CHARLOTTE — The Honorable Robert Daniel Potter, senior U.S. district judge for the Western District of North Carolina, died July 2 at Carolinas Medical Center following a brief illness. He was 86.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral July 7. Internment followed at Belmont Abbey cemetery in Belmont.

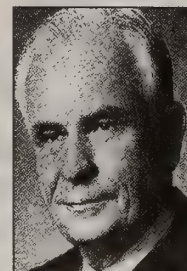
While Potter, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, was a judge known for stern lectures and long sentences, friends and colleagues remember him as a man of deep humility, integrity, courage and commitment to his family.

He was born April 4, 1923 in Wilmington. Following service as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1944 through 1946, he graduated from Duke University in 1947 and then Duke University Law School.

In 1950 he began practicing law in Charlotte and, five years later, opened a law office as a sole practitioner until he became a judge in 1981.

In 1966, he ran and was elected to the Mecklenburg County Commission; he served until 1968. Upon the recommendation of U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, in 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Potter as a U.S. district judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

He later served for many years as



Judge Robert D. Potter

Chief United States District Court Judge — the first Catholic to hold that office in North Carolina in the past century. He served until Dec. 31, 2000.

Among his celebrated cases were the 1989 sentencing of PTL evangelist Jim Bakker and his controversial 1999 ruling that stopped race-based school assignments in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Potter was active in public life and served as a board member of Mercy Hospital and Christendom College in Virginia. He was a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

He received many honors and awards. In 1982 Pope John Paul II conferred upon him the Benedictine Medal for distinguished Christian service. He received the Pro Deo et Patria Medal from Christendom College in 1990 and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

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Duties include: supervising and transporting residential clients, assisting the outreach counselors with group activities, responding to client inquiries and administrative/clerical support. Individual must be an effective communicator with prudent judgment. Position requires reliability, strong work ethic and computer skills. Clean driving record required and Spanish-speaking a plus.

Part-time Special Events Manager

This person will plan and manage all of Room At The Inn's fundraising and promotional events, including annual banquet and golf tournament.

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Bishops criticize NIH funding rules for embryonic stem cell research

STEM CELLS, from page 1

research issued by the National Institutes of Health.

In a joint statement issued July 10, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh said they joined Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia in deploring the "unethical guidelines" adopted by NIH.

"Embryonic stem cell research requires the destruction of a human embryo, a human life," said the bishops' statement. "These guidelines permit the death of human life in order to pursue unpromising research in the hope of curing genetic defects and other serious infirmities."

In a statement issued July 7, Cardinal Rigali said the final guidelines are "even

broader" than the draft guidelines issued by NIH and he asked Americans to contact their members of Congress, "urging them not to codify or further expand this unethical policy."

The cardinal also criticized NIH for ignoring "the comments of tens of thousands of Americans opposing the destruction of innocent human life for stem cell research."

"Even comments filed by the Catholic bishops' conference and others against specific abuses in the draft guidelines were not addressed," he added. "Existing federal law against funding research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed is not given due respect here."

In a telephone briefing with the media July 6, the day before the final guidelines took effect, NIH acting director Dr. Raynard Kington said 30,000 of the approximately 49,000 comments

received by NIH during a monthlong period of public comment opposed any federal funding of such research.

But those responses were "deemed not responsive to the question put forth," Kington said. "We did not ask them whether" to fund such research, "but how it should be funded."

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said it was "disingenuous (for Kington) to say that comments criticizing the guidelines overall were to be ignored."

The 30,000 individuals or organizations that made comments in opposition to federal funding of embryonic stem cell research were saying, "You're not responding to what the American people want. Start over," Doerflinger added.

Guidelines glance

NIH's final guidelines are not significantly different from the draft guidelines published April 23 and open for public comment until May 26.

The draft guidelines allowed the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research only on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and no longer needed for that purpose.

They set standards for voluntary informed consent by those donating the embryos, and said no NIH funds would be given for research that did not meet the standards.

The final guidelines, however, set up an "alternative pathway" for approval of funding of research involving embryos donated before the new guidelines took effect or involving stem cell lines developed in foreign countries.

A working group made up of about 10 scientists and ethicists will look at each such application on a case-by-case basis, Kington said, to determine whether it meets "the core principles of voluntary informed consent."

Like the draft, the final guidelines specifically ban funding for "research using human embryonic stem cells derived from other sources, including somatic cell nuclear transfer, parthenogenesis and/or IVF embryos created for research purposes."

Also prohibited is funding of research in which stem cells "are introduced into nonhuman primate blastocysts" or research "involving the breeding of animals where the introduction of human embryonic stem cells or human-induced pluripotent stem cells may contribute to the germ line."

The final guidelines also call for the establishment of "a new registry listing human embryonic stem cells eligible for NIH-funded research."

Contacting Congress

Cardinal Rigali said the debate over embryonic stem cell research "now shifts to Congress, where some members have said even this policy does not go far enough in treating some human beings as objects to be created, manipulated and destroyed for others' use."

"I hope Americans concerned about this issue will write to their elected representatives, urging them not to codify or further expand this unethical policy," he added.

The N.C. bishops' statement also called for Catholics in North Carolina to contact their elected representatives to "urge them to support only legislation that will fund adult stem cell research."

"Adult stem cell research... has shown tremendous promise in the race to cure genetic defects and serious infirmities," said the bishops. "This research, which respects both science and ethics, should be the place where we target our federal tax dollars."

The bishops said it was "imperative that Catholics make their legislators aware that we take our obligation seriously to participate in the development of public policy... and will continue to press for policies that are scientifically promising and ethical."

Contributing to this story was Nancy Frazier O'Brien of Catholic News Service.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Charity is more than donations, love is more than an emotion

The pope's vision of a new economic future

In a way it is unfair to criticize the presentation and reception of an encyclical that seemingly states the obvious to a world always looking for a new angle and instant solution.

"Pope calls for ethics in economy" headlines stir the same excitement as "NASA supports law of gravity."

In "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), Pope Benedict XVI incorporates and builds upon the teaching and philosophy developed over 2,000 years. As such, it cannot be placed on the same plane as a political platform or a new plan for the world economy.

It is a global, philosophical view of a world, and it risks being undervalued by the confusion of media messengers attempting to understand it as a political document.

A New York Times reporter wrote: "In many ways, the document is a somewhat puzzling cross between an anti-globalization tract and a government white paper, another indication that the Vatican does not comfortably fit into traditional political categories of right and left."

Indeed, it does not fit, nor is it trying to. This is not the First World talking to the Third World by pitying the poor or the Third World talking to the First World by chastising the well-to-do. It is written by a pastor with a universal view.

He sees "the prospect of a world in need of profound cultural renewal, a world that needs to rediscover fundamental values on which to build a better future."

Pope Benedict says much more than "be less greedy and give money to the poor." Charity is not donations. Love is not an emotion.

Charity is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity, says the encyclical. Love is an extraordinary force that leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.

Charity is at the heart of the church's social doctrine.

Charity needs to be understood in the light of truth, Pope Benedict said: "This is a matter of no small account today in a social and cultural context which

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



relativizes truth, often paying little heed to it and showing increasing reluctance to acknowledge its existence."

He makes a rather different appeal to self-interest in saying charity is not only moral, it is profitable. Development aid for poor countries must be considered a valid means for creating wealth for all, he said.

When the pope speaks of development, he is not speaking of a new shopping mall or attracting industry to a city.

Development "depends on recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of individuals who live side by side," he said.

His remarks about greater international control of economic affairs will be a hard sell in the United States, but at the same time valuable in helping people realize that a pope is not the chaplain of the chamber of commerce.

The world audience has changed since the last encyclicals on economic matters. Now when the pope speaks of economic reform to people more affected by the current global crisis he should find a more receptive audience.

The encyclical is not a dry document meant for theologians and scholars. As with all encyclicals, it is meant for "all people of good will." Pope Benedict, a writer of grace and clarity, provides a valuable resource to help understand, to see and to judge current events through the light of faith.

"Caritas in Veritate" will reward the reflective reader by providing a solid understanding of how the difficulties of the present time become, as Pope Benedict says, "an opportunity for discernment in which to shape a new vision for the future."

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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It's only money

As Christians, our hope is in Christ, not materialistic things

It's only money.

In tough economic times, it is important to remember that.

A few weeks ago we had a terrible spate of murders and suicides in our area, all of them thought to be related to the recent economic meltdown.

In one terrible case a man killed his wife and three children and then took his own life. He was apparently \$460,000 in debt, half of it on credit cards. He had been a good Catholic, worker and father. He just gave up.

Across the Potomac River from me, the acting chief financial officer of Freddie Mac, the huge government-backed mortgage company, took his own life at age 41. He had worked for Freddie Mac for 16 years, his entire professional career.

He had watched the company melt down. He had become the acting CFO only a few months before. Under huge stress, he tried to resign. His boss was concerned and told him to take a few days off and think it over.

He went home and reportedly hung himself in the basement.

Just to the north of me in Baltimore, a lawyer from Long Island, who was visiting his daughter, a sophomore at Loyola College, killed his wife and two daughters and then himself at a suburban hotel. The housekeeping staff made the terrible discovery.

Evidently the lawyer had run some kind of investment fund. It had gone bankrupt. One friend of his had invested \$500,000. The friend needed the money immediately.

In despair and shame the lawyer annihilated himself and his family.

These men despaired. Why?

In God's great mercy, I'm sure they are forgiven. God knew their clouded thinking. God knew the dark curtain of despair that had come over them.

But these poor men were wrong.

We have to remember that money is only money. It is not the measure of our worth. It is not our true security. It is not our ultimate salvation.

For men especially, so much of our identity is tied up in our ability to provide for our families. Our self-worth comes

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



from our work. Failure as a provider and a worker seems like failure as a father, husband and person.

But it isn't. We need the resignation of Job: "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

We need the acceptance of the father of the prodigal son in Luke's Gospel. So, the money was gone, but the boy is alive. Kill the fatted calf and let's rejoice.

Money is important in consumer culture. It gives us security. It gives us dignity. And work gives us joy because we feel productive.

But when it all collapses, it is not the end.

If these men had confided in their wives and children, I'm sure each would have said, "It's OK, Dad, we can start over. So long as we have each other, we will survive and thrive."

If only they had called their pastors.

In the last few months, I have dealt with three different families facing financial ruin and foreclosure. What did I try to get across to them?

Do not despair.

You are more than your bank account.

You are more than your house.

You are more than your credit rating.

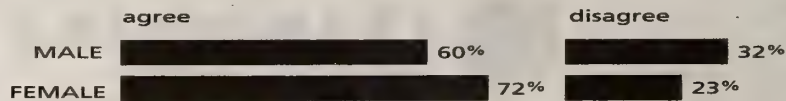
As Christians, our hope is not in the things of this world. Our hope is in Christ. That is more than a theological proposition. It is the bedrock on which we build our lives.

See the lilies of the field. See the birds of the air. Are you not worth more than these?!

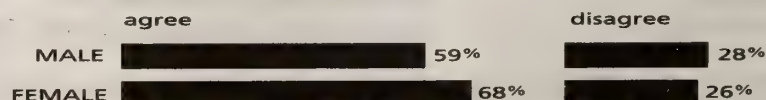
Work and security are important. But money is only money.

FEMALES AGES 18-34 tend to rely on their faith more than males in that age group.

Strong faith is one of the most important elements to help one persevere through an economic crisis.



Faith in God/higher power/divine being gives me more control of my life and my destiny.



The complete Harris Interactive survey was conducted on behalf of Our Sunday Visitor from March 6-10, among 2,315 adults ages 18 and older. The survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

Source: Harris Interactive

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Free yourself from needless guilt

Joy cannot be attained until we remove heresies from life, church

The fullness of joy the Lord wants you to have cannot be attained until you free yourself from the many heresies that have crept into the church from the earliest days. Seeing them for what they are can help you to be free of needless guilt and fear.

For centuries, the fear of eternal damnation, even for petty offenses, was taught in the name of religion. George Carlin, the late comedian, abandoned his faith because he saw the absurdity of believing in a God who would send you to hell for all eternity for eating meat on Friday.

Many Catholics left the church for the same reason. Winning them back will take a massive re-education process.

The church was poisoned by heresies over the centuries. The better you understand these errors, the better you will be able to cope with the problem of needless guilt.

For instance, the Manicheans explained the existence of evil by teaching that there are two gods: the good god, who created the spirit world; and a bad god, who created the material world. They saw the material world, including the body, as evil, and the soul as good.

As a result, many came to the conclusion that we have a better chance

of saving our souls if we run away from the world to keep it from corrupting us. Thus the early desert fathers were considered the holiest of Catholics.

The truth is that the holiest Catholic is the one who is most loving and kind.

St. Irenaeus (c. 130-200), bishop of Lyon, France, was the first great Catholic theologian. He encouraged people to be more loving to one another in order to purify the world.

St. Augustine (c. 354-430), bishop of Hippo, was actually a Manichean in his youth. Later he became a Catholic and then a bishop. He taught that there is only one God, and everything he created, both soul and body, is good.

St. Benedict (c. 480-550) started out as a hermit, moving away from the world, but when a community gradually built up around him, he started a monastery. Group living became a means of promoting social order.

Pope St. Gregory the Great (c. 540-604) became an ardent promoter of Benedictine monasticism. He urged people to live together in joy and holiness.

Centuries later, the Manichean plague reappeared in the form of Albigensianism. This heretical sect, named from the city of Albi where it

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



began, spread throughout Europe from the 11th century to the 14th century.

Its followers were also referred to as the "Cathari." For them, enjoying food was a sin, so too was the enjoyment of sex, even in marriage.

St. Dominic (c. 1170-1221) reacted to these errors, and founded an order of friars to preach against them. St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274) carried on after him with the aim of winning back lapsed Catholics.

Cornelius Jansen (c. 1585-1638) preached a theology of pessimism, which eventually infected America like a plague. Pope Innocent X (1574-1655) condemned the errors of Jansen, whose severity in matters of sexuality and ecclesiastical discipline led to so much emotional pain.

Cardinal John Newman (c. 1801-1890) also preached against this heresy. He encouraged Christians to trust in God's love as a way of freeing themselves from needless fear and guilt.

In John 15:11, Jesus said, "I have told you this so that ... your joy may be complete." You would be wise to take the Lord at his word.

Moderation in all things

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



It was the worst train accident in the history of Washington's subway system!

A train traveling at top speed crashed into a standing train, leaving a lot of dead and seriously injured people.

"I'll bet the conductor was text messaging," several people remarked to me. "You see it everywhere; people start up their cars and immediately dial up someone. These are nothing but selfish people."

Even though text messaging was not the cause, jumping to the conclusion that it was reveals a growing backlash against people text messaging and speaking on cell phones while driving.

Without a doubt, the latest technological advances in communication are creating addictions. Most of the addicted would argue it is important to stay in contact with others, especially family members.

They contend a family that communicates with each other frequently stays together. Others would argue it makes business transactions easier.

The problem as I see it is not selfish, inconsiderate people. Rather, it is not knowing how to prudently cope with the new age of modern technology. It is failing to include one crucial element: moderation.

Samuel Butler, a British writer, once said, "Half the vices which the world condemns most loudly have seeds of good in them and require moderate use rather than total abstinence."

The word "moderate" means to regulate and apply rules. In the case of new communication technologies, there is no need to do away with cell phones. Rather, what is needed are new rules. What are these rules?

An old Maltese proverb tells us: "Better one word less than one too many." In other words, owning a cell phone doesn't imply you have to talk on it incessantly.

Henry Kissinger once said, "Moderation is a virtue only in those who are thought to have an alternative." In other words, is there a better alternative to constant phone communication that just might allow us to smell the flowers and better enjoy contemplation?

A Tibetan proverb cautions us: "Even the nibbling rabbit can gorge itself to death." In other words, how easy it is to multiply phone calls and overload the senses to our detriment.

A Tamil proverb warns: "If in excess, even nectar is poison."

It goes without saying that we have entered a new age requiring new rules to avoid immoderation that leads to self-destruction.

How to include the church in plans you already have

Simple steps now can benefit many in the long term

Most of us own life insurance policies and invest in retirement plans in an effort to protect our families' financial security. We all want to provide future support for our loved ones as well as provide income during retirement.

Perhaps you also have thought about how your plans can allow you to support your parish, or a Catholic school or agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation.

Giving through life insurance

Making a gift through life insurance is relatively simple and easy. Here are two examples of how this can work.

1) You can continue to provide for family members and other beneficiaries and, at the same time, designate a Catholic organization to receive part or all of the policy proceeds.

2) You can gift a life insurance policy you no longer need to the church. An example of this would be a policy originally purchased for a child's education.

When you make a charitable gift to the church through life insurance, possible tax savings may also be an added benefit of your gift.

Giving through retirement plans

Retirement plans — including IRAs, Keough plans, SEPs and 401(k) plans — also may be used to make charitable gifts. If you are over age 59 and a half and can make unpenalized withdrawals from your IRA or other qualified retirement plan, you may choose to give that money to a Catholic organization.

While the withdrawal will be subject to tax, the gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction for those who itemize deductions. The result is that the usual tax on withdrawal is avoided.

You can also make charitable gifts through retirement plans when you no longer need the funds.

For example, consider naming a Catholic organization as the second or third beneficiary after providing for your spouse, children or other loved ones. This ensures

Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST



that your surviving loved ones are taken care of first and charitable distributions will be made only after the primary beneficiary no longer needs the funds.

Take the next step

It is easy to name your parish, a Catholic school or agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation through your life insurance or retirement plans.

It could be as simple as contacting your insurance representative or the administrator of your retirement account and completing a change of beneficiary form.

Just remember that everyone's needs are different so it is important to consult your professional advisor to review your plan.

Judy Smith is planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704)370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.



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John 1:14



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- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

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Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
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Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



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"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BRIGHT HOPE AMID DESPAIR



CNS PHOTO BY RUSSELL F. EVANS

A painting of a Catholic priest with children is seen on a wall next to railroad tracks in Villa 31, a slum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 5. A team of Catholic priests works in this slum to protect, educate and uplift some of Argentina's poorest citizens.

In Buenos Aires' slums, priests fight daily to defend life

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — Father Gustavo Carrara lives in one of Buenos Aires' most destitute neighborhoods. For the last three years, he and his team of "curas villeros," or slum priests, have fought a daily battle to protect, educate and uplift some of Argentina's poorest citizens.

Father Carrara and his team reside where few nongovernmental organizations or government officials dare to visit. His church, La Capilla Santa Maria Madre del Pueblo, is in Bajo Flores, one of Buenos Aires' most infamous slums.

Here, said Father Carrara, "faith goes hand in hand with social promotion. Being a pastor here obliges a defense of life."

In Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital and largest city, poor neighborhoods called "villas" house some of Argentina's most impoverished citizens. Set on public property, villas often lack sewer systems, running water or gas with which to cook.

In some cases, entire neighborhoods are built precariously, using substandard materials and techniques.

Decorated with colorful pieces of broken glass below barred windows, the small Santa Maria chapel is a sanctuary amid squalor. Inside the pastoral residence, pictures of saints share wall space with posters of Argentine soccer legends.

Father Carrara said what his team of priests tries to provide is opportunity. The priests gather old computers for a computer lab, hold carpentry classes for young adults, offer job training and provide day care for young children.

"We try to create a healthy, happy place where the children can come and do what children do: play," Father Carrara said.

"Sometimes the schools are more cafeteria than school, because parents don't have work," he said. "It's not that

they don't want to work, it's not that they don't fight to improve, but they don't have opportunity."

Father Carrara attributed this lack of employment opportunity to a strong divide between people's values inside and outside the villas.

"Here, life is organized around faith and the fight for dignity. Sometimes urban life is organized around money and power. In a lot of cases, these two perspectives collide," he said.

"The people of the villas integrate the faith into their lives. Here, faith and life go hand in hand; God is intertwined with life. If you go to (the) market and you bring an image of the Virgin, it's natural. If you bring the Virgin to the urban malls, everyone wonders why you're there," he said.

Father Carrara also has worked to protect his people from the effects of drug addiction. A real challenge in the villas is a highly addictive form of cocaine.

"We visit the schools in the area with a well-known therapist, with a social worker, and we present a systematic program about drug prevention for school-age children, from first grade to seventh grade," he said.

The church's active and vocal role in drug prevention has had consequences. A recent escalation in drug trafficking and consumption has led to threats against Catholic priests who live and work in the villas. Police are still investigating an April 20 incident in which a member of Father Carrara's team received a death threat after denouncing rampant drug use.

While Father Carrara said he worries about his colleague, he understands why the drug dealers feel the need to threaten the church.

"The drug dealers feel as though the church undermines them with its voice and its work. The voice of the church has strength," he said.

Effort to block U.S. funds to Planned Parenthood fails in House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An effort to withhold U.S. family planning funds from Planned Parenthood of America failed in the House of Representatives July 24 by a vote of 183 in favor and 247 opposed.

Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., had proposed the amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010. The bill passed later that day by a vote of 264-153.

"The largest abortion provider in America should not also be the largest recipient of federal funding under Title X, as I believe a majority of the American people would attest," Pence said in remarks on the House floor July 24.

"The time has come to deny all federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America," he said.

Title X of the Public Health Services Act provides federal grants to programs that provide comprehensive family

planning and related preventive health care services.

In a statement after the vote on his amendment, Pence said he would "continue to fight for the right to life and for the day when abortions are not funded by the federal government," adding that "taxpayers and the just cause for the unborn deserve no less."

Also speaking in favor of the Pence amendment on the House floor was Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who co-chairs the Congressional Pro Life Caucus.

"Millions of children live today because public funds weren't available to effectuate their death," Smith said.

"Yet Planned Parenthood aggressively seeks to compel taxpayers to fund for abortion. ... It's time to understand the irreversible harm Planned Parenthood is doing to the children of America — born and unborn," he said.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A Taize prayer service is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taize is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The rosary is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry devoted to assisting

others with the processes (position focusing, resumes, networking, interviewing, etc., and related issues) by which they can find employment whether currently unemployed or about to be. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in Room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail jrueckel@earthlink.com.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. St. Peregrine has been called the "wonder worker" for his intercession on behalf of those living with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. He is the patron saint of all who are afflicted by cancer, leg ailments or any incurable diseases, as well as the patron saint of youths at risk. A healing prayer service is offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — There will be an inquiry meeting for those interested in joining a Dominican Lay Group (third Order of St. Dominic) Sept. 13, 2 p.m. in Room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The group is open to all who are in conformity with the teaching of the Magisterium and who are seeking the Dominican spiritual life. For more information, call Mary Snow at (704) 847-4405 or e-mail info@charlottedaydominicans.org. Or visit the Web site at www.charlottedaydominicans.org.

MINT HILL — The sacrament of anointing the sick will be offered during a special Mass at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Aug. 22, 10 a.m. Anointing is typically presented to those who need healing from physical or mental illness.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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JULY 31, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 34

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except 1 Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte, NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican taking cautious, not alarmist, approach to swine flu

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Though tens of thousands of people from all over the world crowd together to attend papal Masses, weekly general audiences and Angelus addresses, the Vatican is not taking any extreme measures in the face of the swine flu pandemic, said the director of the Vatican health service.

Dr. Giovanni Rocchi, a professor specializing in infectious diseases, said the Vatican has avoided an alarmist approach to dealing with the H1N1 virus, which causes swine flu, based on the "serious, careful and balanced observation of data coming from the World Health Organization."

He made his comments in an interview published July 24 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

The Vatican's Department of Health and Hygiene will continue to offer its usual cycle of flu vaccines to all Vatican employees and family members as it does every year, he said. But it will not be

taking any particular steps in prevention unless someone "coming from a country of risk shows warning signs," he said.

This approach does not mean the Vatican is "taking the pandemic lightly," he said.

If recommendations from the World Health Organization warrant it or Italy enacts particular precautions, the Vatican would, in good conscience, temporarily suspend large public gatherings, he added.

Rocchi predicted that swine flu "will surely reach our doorstep in the autumn."

As soon as a specific vaccine to prevent the virus is available, the Vatican health department will be offering it, he said.

The World Health Organization said fatalities from the H1N1 virus have doubled in the past three weeks, from about 330 at the start of July to more than 700 new cases, adding that further deaths are expected in the future.

someone who will be under going surgery. refreshments will be served after Mass. If anyone in need of transportation, call Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224. For more information, contact Virginia Horne at (704) 823-0846.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — *Discernment Day 2009* will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All high school- and college-age men of the diocese are invited to join Bishop Peter J. Jugis and his priests and seminarians for a day of reflection and meditation focused on the vocation of the priesthood. To reserve a spot, call (704) 370-3327.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m., at the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. A 6-week program on the *Parables of the Gospels* will be held each Tuesday from 7:30 through Aug. 4. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or jhnmalmfelt@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The *Flames of Fire Charismatic Prayer Group* meets every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Peace Church, 2201 West Market St. All those interested in the charismatic way of life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ben Apollo at (336) 812-3730 or Lorraine Brown at (336) 292-5186.

GREENSBORO — The health care ministry of St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., is joining up with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to offer a 12-week course for family and/or caregivers of individuals with mental illnesses. The free course will be held at the church on Thursdays from Sept. 3 through Nov. 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Class size will be limited. For more information or to register, call Frank or Pat Cleary at (336) 286-2603. Participants must register before Aug. 6.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 5 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Discernment Day

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

Aug. 6 (7 p.m.)

Book installation of Father Patrick Hoare

John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Aug. 8 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Hispanic Ministry pastoral plan celebration

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Aug. 9 (12:30 p.m.)

Scroll Mass of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher

St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Pope speaks of gift of priesthood, gift of grandparents

LES COMBES, Italy (CNS) — Praying the Angelus with thousands of people gathered in an Alpine meadow, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the gift of the priesthood and the gift of grandparents.

The midday prayer July 26 was the last public appointment the pope was scheduled to hold in the Italian Alps, where he has been vacationing since July 13. He was scheduled to leave the evening of July 29 and transfer to the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

In his Angelus address, the pope commented on the day's Gospel reading about the multiplication of the loaves and fish, saying priests can see themselves in the disciples who wonder what they can do to feed such a huge crowd.

When they ask Jesus how five

loaves and two fish could possibly make a difference, they basically are asking, "Who am I? With my limits, how can I help Jesus in his mission?" the pope said.

"The Lord gives the response; precisely by placing the little that they are in his holy and venerable hands, priests become instruments of salvation for many, for all," Pope Benedict said.

The pope also noted that July 26 is the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, "the parents of the mother of God and, therefore, the grandparents of Jesus."

The feast, he said, "invites us to pray for grandparents, who are the depositories and often witnesses of the basic values of life within the family. The educational role of grandparents is always very important," especially in situations where one or both parents are frequently absent.

Prayers for peace



CNS PHOTO BY BRUNO DOMINGOS, REUTERS

People hold crosses during a protest against violence at Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 26. Rio de Paz (Peace Rio), a non-governmental advocacy group, held the protest with relatives of victims of violence. Famous for its beaches and big parties at carnival time, Brazil's second-biggest city is plagued by a vast gap between rich and poor that helps breed violent crime, including a huge drug trade, murders and assaults.

Atlanta's vicar general named an auxiliary bishop for archdiocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Luis R. Zarama, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, to be an auxiliary bishop of Atlanta.

The appointment was announced in Washington July 27 by Archbishop

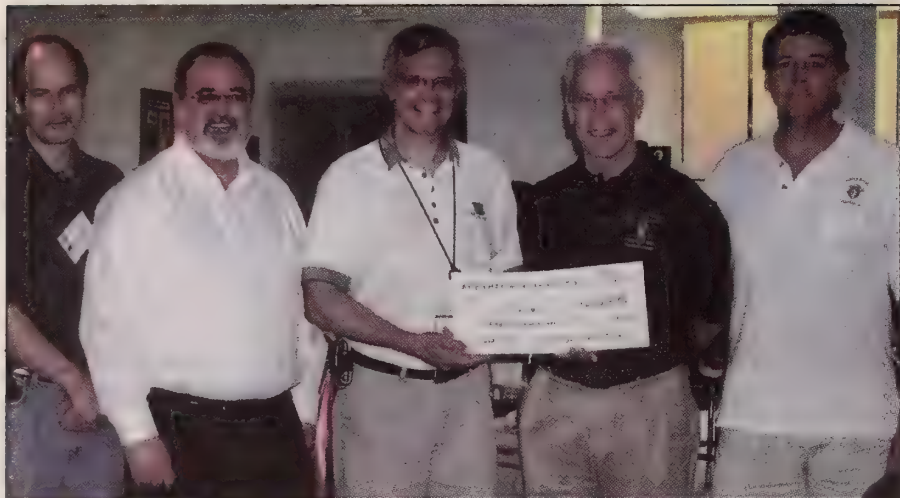
Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop-designate Zarama, 50, who was born in Colombia, was ordained a priest in Atlanta in 1993 and has been vicar general since 2006.

ATTENTION READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is currently on its fortnightly publishing schedule for the summer. The next issue will be Aug. 14.

Generous giving



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council 10852 in Charlotte present a \$25,000 check to Dennis Kuhn (center), executive vice president and chief operating officer of Holy Angels in Belmont, at the facility May 2.

The donation, the council's largest to date, was raised through the Knights' Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) campaign, which raised more than \$61,000 for the LAMB Foundation of NC in 2008. The foundation is a nonprofit public charity benefiting people with intellectual disabilities.

Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation that provides programs and services to its resident adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Pictured are (from left) Earl Hartenstine, chief counselor of the squires; Richard White, N.C. state LAMB director and past grand knight; Kuhn; Bob Desch, grand knight; and Chuck Elgin, deputy grand knight.

Leading Knights



COURTESY PHOTO BY PATRICIA MOONEY

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Joseph Tustin (center, back), pastor of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, stands with the new 2009-10 officers of Knights of Columbus Council 8509, who were installed after Mass June 17. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882. Council 8509 sponsors fundraising events that benefit the parish and community and hold social events for families. Father Tustin serves as the council's chaplain.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Appreciating priests



COURTESY PHOTO

Diocesan priests (from left) Father C. Morris Boyd, parochial vicar of the Basilica of St. Lawrence Asheville; Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the basilica; Father John Pagel, on sabbatical; and Father Fr. Seabo, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler, are pictured with members of Court Asheville of Catholic Daughters of the Americas during a priest appreciation dinner in Weaverville June 17.

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- * **Aztec ruins and Pyramids** of the Sun and Moon tell the archaeological history
- * **Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine** - special Mass, free time to reflect, explore and purchase spiritual keepsakes
- * **Famous Xochimilco market** experienced by a gondola ride through its canals
- * **Historic Puebla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site - a magnificent converted monastery is our hotel for 2 nights as we explore this picturesque valley in the mountains
- * **Day trips** to both architecturally-important **Taxco** (known also for beautiful silver creations) and **Cuernavaca**, with its history and beautiful gardens
- * **Free time** for relaxation, reflection and shopping!
- * **Colorful Ballet Folklorico** - optional evening of world-renown national music and dance celebration
- * **Local arts and craft demonstrations** to see famous Talavera pottery, the maguey plant, etc., and Diego Rivera's famous storytelling murals
- * **San Miguel de Milagro**, site of St. Michael's miraculous apparitions and well of curative waters
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FROM THE COVER

Parish ministry reaches out to the unemployed

JOBS, from page 1

"Coming here for a job search reminds me that God is involved in all of this."

— Kathy Kosminski



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Keith Eades gives tips and suggestions to job seekers during a meeting of the St. Gabriel in Transition ministry at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte July 16.

ministry's leaders.

A committee was formed in December 2008.

"He (Father O'Rourke) invited people who were in transition or looking for jobs and people who wanted to help," said Conwell.

The goal of SGIT is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment.

The ministry, which is open to all job seekers, utilizes the vast resources within the parish community by connecting those who are looking for employment with those who have particular skills and assets that can be applied to the job search process.

Craig Wheeler, for example, a member of the leadership team and a parishioner at St. Gabriel Church, works in banking and has been able to lend his skills to those who are seeking help with resumes and networking.

"This ministry was a good fit for me," said Wheeler, who said he has always been very passionate about helping people find compelling work."

Occasionally speakers are brought in from the greater Charlotte community, but for the most part the group is taking

advantage of the resources within the parish.

At the most recent meeting July 16, parishioner Keith Eades, founder and CEO of a sales training company in Charlotte and a knowledgeable authority on building world-class sales organizations, gave a talk entitled "How to Sell and Market Yourself the Solution Selling Way."

In his presentation, Eades discussed various techniques for selling oneself to prospective employers. He also handed out free copies of his book and provided participants with formulas and templates to develop individualized selling points based on their own situations and experiences.

"Not only am I thankful for the

important ministry that St. Gabriel in Transition is providing but I am also very impressed with the administration, content and services that are being offered," said Eades.

Parishioner Morris St. Angelo is one of the original participants. He began attending meetings in January when the ministry was formed.

"Realizing how embedded the mission of faith and service is that allows this group to function was really powerful to me," said St. Angelo.

St. Angelo, who has recently found employment, was grateful to the ministry for helping him through a difficult time.

His advice to those who are seeking employment: "Don't be afraid to try to learn the techniques needed to find a job."

"I hadn't looked for a job in over 25 years," he said. "I had hired a ton of people," but being on the other end of a job interview was uncharted territory.

At first, he thought, "I'm the only person on earth who is going through this."

But after coming to the first SGIT meeting, he was relieved to find "a room full of people who looked just like me."

At that point, St. Angelo came to the realization that he wasn't alone.

"To me the advantage of one of these groups is recognizing you are not alone and that there are people who want to help you," said Conwell.

And what better place to find that support system than within one's own parish community.

"This is home to me," said Kathy Kosminski, a St. Gabriel Church parishioner and SGIT participant.

"Coming here for a job search reminds me that God is involved in all of this," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Selling yourself

According to Keith Eades, when it comes to selling yourself in today's difficult job market two key principles apply: "No Pain No Change" and "Diagnose Before you Prescribe."

His advice: find out the problems that are relevant to key individuals in the companies you want to work for and then diagnose the problems with good situational questions before you offer yourself as the solution.

Here are Eades' four key components for selling yourself:

- 1.) Target — Do your research and know who the targets are in the company.
- 2.) Identify critical business or personal issues — What are the critical business and personal issues within the company that your capabilities address?
- 3.) Define your differentiated capabilities — What capabilities do you have that set you apart from other job seekers? Be sure to use actual examples and measured results from your previous work experiences.
- 4.) Quantify your value — What value, if any, do your differentiated capabilities bring to the situation? Use your value to stimulate and create interest or as proof of how you can be the solution to their problems.

WANT MORE INFO?

For general questions, contact BJ Dengler at bdengler@stgabrielchurch.org.

To join SGIT, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte

Research studies have found Natural Family Planning to be 97-99% effective when used correctly. Engaged and married couples, clergy and anyone interested in learning more about Church-sanctioned methods of natural family planning are welcome to attend. Engaged couples can receive verification of attendance to fulfill diocesan pre-Cana requirements.

Fall 2009 Introduction Classes

Concord - Northgate Family Medicine

August 19 - 7 pm

Arden - St. Barnabas

August 23 - 9:45 am and 12:15 pm

Charlotte - Zitel Family Chiropractic

August 28 - 7:30 pm

Charlotte - St. Patrick

September 5 - 6:45 pm

September 6 - 10:45 am and 1:45 pm

Mooresville - St. Therese

October 4 - 1 pm

Gastonia - St. Michael

November 14 - 6:30 pm

November 15 - 11:30 am

Clemmons - Holy Family

December 5 - 6:45 pm

December 6 - 2 pm

A FREE home-study course is available for your convenience.

Information: (704) 370-3230
cssnfp@charlottediocese.org
www.cssnc.org/naturalfamilyplanning.html



Roman vacation



COURTESY PHOTO

Augustinian Father John Denny (center, back), pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, and Betsy McLeod (right, back) director of the parish vacation Bible school, stand with participants on the last day of the program June 26. More than 80 people, including students and youth and adult volunteers, participated in the weeklong program this year themed "Rome: Paul and the Underground Church."

Exploring the 'marvelous mystery'



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, speaks to students during the parish Vacation Faith Formation program July 6-10.

During the week, 58 students learned about the elements of the Mass by attending children's Masses, making crafts and engaging in other age-appropriate activities. The program was based on the vacation Bible school theme, "Marvelous Mystery — the Mass Comes Alive," by Cat.Chat, a Catholic audio show that uses prayer, songs and faith-filled stories to teach the Catholic faith.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

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If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Leading in faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry, presents the Bishop Michael J. Begley Youth Award to Nichole Lehman at Holy Spirit Church in Denver July 12. Nichole earned the annual award out of about a dozen high-school-age nominees for demonstrating significant leadership in her parish school and community.

She serves on the parish council and parish leadership team, assists with faith formation and confirmation classes, is a member of the parish youth ministry group and was instrumental in helping the parish start a regular youth Mass.

Winning miss



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-grader Mary Kimball Osborn displays her tiara, sash and roses after winning the inaugural Little Miss SPX pageant July 17 during the summer school camps at St. Pius X School in Greensboro. Mary also won a scholarship for a free camp week.

The summer camps offer sports, art, science, cheerleading, crafts, cooking and enrichment, among other topics. Pageant participants were judged on talent, citizenship, casual and dress wear, and an on-stage interview.

'A powerful technology'

Latest stem cell advance said to prove again no need to kill embryos

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The work of two teams of Chinese scientists who created live mice from induced pluripotent stem cells is "another demonstration that researchers don't need to destroy embryos" to achieve stem cell advances, according to a pro-life official at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The research done by separate teams in Shanghai and Beijing and published July 23 in the scientific journals *Nature* and *Cell Stem Cell* showed that the so-called iPS cells have "the full range of uses that embryonic stem cells are proposed for," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

"The immediate finding is that induced pluripotent stem cells, created without harming any embryos, really are as versatile as embryonic stem cells," he said.

But Doerflinger also warned in a July 27 interview with Catholic News Service that this latest breakthrough in stem cell research shows that iPS cells are "so powerful" that researchers "might be able to put them in a human embryo and change the genetic makeup of that child and all the future generations" related to the child.

"It's an ominous thing, that they could be remaking people's genetic traits," he added. "It's a powerful technology and it could be misused."

The two Chinese teams had varying degrees of success in creating genetic duplicates of mice by reprogramming skin cells from adult mice into iPS cells and then implanting the embryos created into a surrogate mother.

The first team, led by Qi Zhou of the Institute of Zoology in Beijing and Fanyi Zeng of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, reported 27 live births, starting with a mouse named Xiao Xiao or "Tiny."

"The immediate finding is that induced pluripotent stem cells ... really are as versatile as embryonic stem cells."

— Richard Doerflinger

All 12 of the genetic duplicates that were mated produced offspring without abnormalities; the team reported hundreds of second-generation and more than 100 third-generation mice.

The second team, headed by Shaorong Gao of the National Institute of Biological Sciences in Beijing, produced only two live births using the same technique, with one of those dying in infancy.

The team is currently trying to mate the surviving mouse.

In the United States, the National Institutes of Health recently issued final guidelines for federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, requiring that such research use only embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and no longer needed for that purpose.

The draft guidelines set standards for voluntary informed consent by those



CNS PHOTO BY RESEARCH TEAM LEADER QI ZHOU/CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Tiny, a mouse created from stem cells created from mouse skin, is pictured in China in this January 2009 photograph made available July 24. The work of two teams of Chinese scientists who created the mice from induced pluripotent stem cells is "another demonstration that researchers don't need to destroy embryos" to achieve stem-cell advances, according to a pro-life official at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

donating the embryos, and said no NIH funds would be given for research that did not meet the standards.

The final guidelines, however, set up an "alternative pathway" for the approval of funding of research involving embryos donated before the new guidelines took effect or involving stem-cell lines developed in foreign countries.

A working group made up of about 10 scientists and ethicists is to look at each such application on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it meets the core principles of voluntary informed consent.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, strongly criticized the final guidelines and said the debate over embryonic stem-cell research "now shifts to Congress, where some members have said even this policy does not go far enough in treating some human beings as objects to be created, manipulated and destroyed for others' use."

Some had predicted that President Barack Obama's decision to reverse the limits on funding of embryonic stem cell research established under President George W. Bush would lead to the rapid expansion of such research, particularly at the university level.

But the results of a survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, published July 21, found that only 6 percent of major research universities — those with \$100 million or more in federal grants — planned to increase research on human embryonic stem cells "by a large amount."

The survey also found that most of the universities said they had increased their contributions to the indirect costs of scientific research on campus by 50 percent or more over the past five years.

A federal policy established in 1991 limits the indirect costs that a university may collect on each federal research grant for expenses like photocopying, accounting and electricity.

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**Please pray for the
following priests who
died during the month
of August**

Rev. Henry J. Becker	1992
Rev. Msgr. Felix R. Kelaher	1998
Rev. John F. Parsons	1993

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

New Orleans Catholic Charities visits OEO

OEO, from page 1

OEO are part of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Since October 2007, Balser has been director of four Catholic Charities' community centers in the New Orleans area: one center each in St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes (counties) and two in Washington Parish.

What she wanted to learn were ways to provide long-term help, rather than just quick fixes.

"One of our biggest challenges is getting our clients to stay with us without giving them money," Balser said.

So why would she come to western North Carolina to find ways to solve problems in southern Louisiana?

In 2007, Claudie Burchfield, OEO's director, and Netta McFadden, OEO's Far West Families First coordinator, went to Cleveland to receive the \$25,000 Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Strengthening Award. The award honors people and programs working to improve the prospects of children and families living in tough neighborhoods.

A group from Catholic Charities offices nationwide then visited the OEO, but Balser was unable to go with them.

The following year, Burchfield spoke on parish social ministry at the Catholic Charities annual gathering in New Orleans. Balser still wanted to look for fresh approaches to the situation in New Orleans.

"I contacted Jane Stenson of Catholic Charities USA and asked what would be the best place for a site visit," she said. "Jane said OEO, definitely."

Washington Parish, a rural area in Louisiana, faces challenges similar to those in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain, the four counties OEO serves. Many residents of those counties don't have advanced education and there are few industries to provide jobs.

Willing and able

During Balser's time at OEO, Burchfield and McFadden introduced her to faith teams showed her how they work with other agencies and taught her about ABLE, OEO's financial literacy program.

"I just love the term ABLE for the financial literacy program," Balser said. "We're just getting started with financial literacy."

ABLE (Assets Building Longterm Equity) is one of OEO's key programs. When OEO began 10 years ago, it received grants from the Duke Endowment for ABLE. At that time, the assets were monetary: if a person living in the four counties could save \$1,000, ABLE would match it with \$2,000.

The person could use that money for education, to start or expand a business or toward buying a home. If he withdrew the savings before

"We decided to to concentrate on helping people be financially literate."

— Claudie Burchfield,
OEO director

reaching the \$1,000 level, he got back what he had saved but without any matching funds.

The program required that participants attend OEO's financial literacy classes to learn such skills as budgeting, saving money and making a business plan.

"When the grant funding ended (five years ago)," Burchfield explained, "we said, 'What is the most important part of this program? Do we want to seek additional funds? If not, what do we want to see saved.' We decided to concentrate on helping people be financially literate."

So, OEO created a financial literacy computer lab. The Bishop Begley Center is in a house adjacent to St. William Church; parishioners enclosed the porch for the lab. OEO used grants and private contributions to purchase desks, chairs and laptop computers.

Carol McAfee, who assists Burchfield, is available 20 hours a week to help people learn to use the computers to become financially literate. She shows people how to research better mortgage rates, check their credit ratings, make budgets, look at how they spend their money, clear up bad debts and so forth.

"Many in poverty look only to satisfying immediate needs," McAfee said. "If they can actually see where their money goes — do the math on the computer — it makes it real."

Personal approach

For people who, perhaps for generations, have never seen any way to get beyond poverty, the current economic situation has only compounded the problem.

"We had a high unemployment rate before, but now it's worse," McAfee said.

She estimates the rate in the four counties at 11-12 percent.

"After NAFTA, factories closed and jobs went to other countries," she said, referring to the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement.

OEO has found that many people who have little or no experience dealing with financial institutions and creditors are afraid to contact these entities because they don't know what to say.

McAfee and Burchfield help them use the computer to prepare



FILE PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Visitors check out the Office of Economic Opportunity's financial literacy computer lab during its dedication in Murphy Sept. 7, 2007.

a script of the questions they want to ask. They print it out so they can read it when talking on the phone to various institutions.

"Even the government is talking about the cycle of poverty," McAfee said. "I think (the key to) breaking that cycle is through education."

OEO partners with other community organizations in financial literacy fairs and offers classes on financial literacy. Local residents also visit OEO, and Burchfield offers individual help "on common-sense things such as how to keep accurate records."

Presently, someone from one of Balser's offices goes to various locations to meet with groups of people, but the more personal approach means people can get help when it's most convenient for them.

"I just love how Claudie sits down with people one-on-one and goes over things with them," Balser said.

Helping families

McFadden introduced Balser to Far West Families First faith teams, an ecumenical approach to serving families in need.

One such team consists of a Catholic, a Baptist and a Methodist, who are now working with their fourth family. Balser also met representatives of the Department of Social Services (DSS), which refers people to Far West Families First.

DSS (Department of Social Services) refers families that meet state poverty guidelines and have indicated that they want to improve their lives through better education, housing or employment.

No money is offered. Instead, faith teams help families with such needs as finding reliable transportation, locating resources such as agencies that could help them with specific needs, and offering prayers and encouragement.

Balser also learned about the Far West Families First Kinship Program, which works with people, including grandparents and other family members, who are raising children not biologically their own.

"I hope I brought some things to them, too," Balser said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

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Vacations, pilgrimages draw people closer to God

VACATION, from page 1

Tom and Heather Martin and their even children are parishioners of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Heather Martin said she viewed the trip as an opportunity for her family to grow closer to the Lord.

"We went to Mass just about everywhere we went," said Martin "We wanted to be there and pray and just soak it in."

While in Rome, Martin's son Patrick made his first Communion at St. Peter's Basilica with Father Matthew Kauth, priest from the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrating the Mass.

Father Kauth, who has been studying in Rome, baptized Patrick at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte seven years ago.

At the recommendation of Father Kauth, the Mass to celebrate Patrick's first Communion took place on the tomb of St. Pius X, who is known for lowering the age requirement for the reception of Communion.

Patrick's older siblings, Zachery, Daniel and Luke, assisted as altar servers during the Mass and their mother sang.

"The next day, we had arranged a papal audience through the diocese," said Martin.

After the audience, the Martins watched as Pope Benedict made his way through the crowd in his popemobile.

Tom Martin handed their 11-month-old daughter, Sarah, to one of the pope's attendants just before he passed by.

"The attendant held up Sarah and the pope put his hands on each side of her face and kissed her on the top of her head," said Heather Martin.

"I think every Catholic should try



COURTESY PHOTO FROM HEATHER MARTIN/SERVIZIO FOTOGRAFICO DE L.O.R. 00120 CITTA DEL VATICANO

Pope Benedict XVI kisses the head of Sarah Cecilia Martin following a general audience in St. Peter's Square May 6. Sarah is the youngest daughter of Tom and Heather Martin, parishioners of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

and go to Italy," she said of seeing the center of the Catholic Church in Rome. "It makes you so proud to be a part of such a beautiful and holy church."

But Catholics don't have to cross the Atlantic to deepen their faith.

Tom and Heather Martin took one of their first family pilgrimages to the chapel of Our Lady of La Leche in

St. Augustine, Fla., three years after they were married.

"We asked our Blessed Mother to please bless us with children," recalled Martin who at the time of the trip had been unable to get pregnant.

The idea of using vacation as a time to grow in faith is something that the Martins have tried to instill in their children by taking family pilgrimages to nearby locations such as the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

"It is good to get away," said Martin, "but it is so much more important to grow closer to God."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Share your day and lunch with friends!
Special Days of Reflection for Seniors

Thursday, August 20 -- Sacred Heart Church, Brevard

Presenter: Fr. Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Eugene

Topic: "Seasons of Our Life"

9:45 am - 3 pm (check-in 9:45 am - 10:15 am)

Closing Mass at 2:15 pm

Cost: \$10 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, August 11



Thursday, August 27 -- St. William Catholic Church, Murphy

Presenter: Msgr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor

Topic: "Facing the Giants in My Life"

10 am - 3 pm (check-in 10 am - 10:30 am)

Closing Mass at 2:15 pm

Cost: \$10 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, August 18

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, 1123 S.

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Culture Watch

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Portraits of biblical women, saints provide faith lessons for today

REVIEWED BY ALLAN F. WRIGHT
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

T.J. Wray combines biblical scholarship with practicality as she opens the door to shed light on 12 women of prominence in the Old Testament in her book, "Good Girls, Bad Girls."

She mentions in the introduction the scarcity of information that has been available to laypeople and scholars alike concerning how women lived in the Old Testament era.

However, she says that during recent decades, "extrabiblical sources, both written and archaeological, have helped us begin to understand more about the lives of women during the first millennium."

She continues, "Although the portrait of women's lives during biblical antiquity remains an incomplete canvas, there are some aspects of their daily lives that we can sketch with reasonable clarity."

It is with these insights that she lays out the biblical text and draws out what she considers essential to the stories in the Bible where women are mentioned. Specifically, "What is the author trying to teach me about God, myself and others."

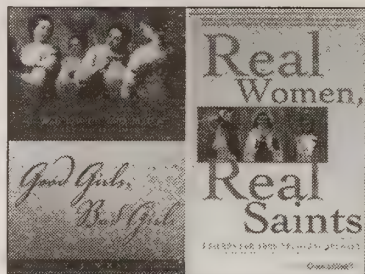
Wray helps complete the canvas and what is revealed are real women who faced trials, temptations and triumphs and struggled just as we do with their relationship with God and what God's will is in their lives.

Wray does a very good job of putting flesh on these women who are often named, not in relation to men as wives or daughters, but as strong women who can stand on their own two feet.

In commenting on the story of Rebekah found in Genesis, she brings the decision and dilemma of Rebekah close to us by stating, "In the Bible — and usually in life — following God's will is, more often than not, difficult and challenging."

Each chapter is clear, concise, focused and ends with sensible questions for reflection that draw us close to these women and ultimately close to God, which is a major strength of this book.

Gina Loehr, in her book, "Real



Women, Real Saints," offers brief spiritual portraits of 102 Catholic women who have been declared venerable, blessed or saints.

Loehr's ability to tell the story of each woman of faith in a concise manner while presenting the diversity of temperaments, occupations, challenges, education and backgrounds of these Catholic women is admirable.

From the illiterate doctor of the church, St. Catherine of Siena, to the scholarly St. Edith Stein, what brings them together and unites all these women is their belief and fidelity to God.

"Real Women, Real Saints" reveals the quality of faith and love of these women who often lived their Catholic faith in the midst of opposition and ridicule.

Loehr states in her introduction, "Every story in this book tells of a relationship between the Savior of the universe and a woman who loved him enough to live in harmony with his will."

The short vignettes offer insight into the life of faith and expose some lesser known saints although the book fails to provide the reader with any reflection or meditation for their own faith lives.

While the stories whet the appetite, the reader is left feeling that there was more to be written that could have provided some direction for spiritual enrichment and thus have made a good book more valuable.

Wright is the author of "Jesus in the House: Gospel Reflections on Christ's Presence in the Home" and "Silent Witnesses in the Gospels: Bible Bystanders and Their Stories."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 9, 2009

Aug. 9, Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) 1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:2-9
- 2) Ephesians 4:30-5:2
Gospel: John 6:41-51

Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The miraculous gift of the Eucharist is for many people a hard thing to believe.

Taken at face value it is a round, tasteless wafer. Our Catholic theology says it is the body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So how does one go from seeing a wafer to experiencing Jesus?

For me, three instances stand out as helping my belief in the Eucharist grow.

The first was when I was in my 20s. I happened to sit next to the same young woman a few weeks in a row, and I noticed that while she prayed after Communion, she quietly wept.

One time I asked her if she was all right.

She said, "Yes, I just feel Jesus cleansing me of my sins."

I was in awe of her experience and deeply wanted to have such a profound connection with the Eucharist.

The second instance was through

a book by Mother Teresa in which she explained that her sisters always start the day with Mass because they could not do the work they were called to without receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

This spiritual exercise was vital to their work.

Upon reading this I was humbled. Here was a group of women who could not begin the day without Jesus in the Eucharist, and at that time in my life if I missed Mass my only thought was guilt.

A sense of missing the Eucharist never crossed my mind.

Last, a young woman who had graduated from our youth ministry program wrote me a letter while she was on a discernment year for her religious vocation.

She signed the letter: "I'll see you in the Eucharist."

Again I was floored. I had never considered the unifying power of the sacrament in this way; we are all one in Jesus.

Difficulty understanding the miracle of the Eucharist is not new. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus confronts people who have a hard time believing he is the bread of life.

I heard once that to surrender is to refuse yourself the luxury of asking any questions. I think this is what Jesus means when he tells the crowd to stop murmuring and believe.

Questions:

Have you had difficulty believing that the body and blood is Jesus?

Who or what has helped your belief in the Eucharist to grow?

Have you ever had a profound experience after going to Communion?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:48)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2-8

Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15, Ephesians 4:17, 20-24, John 6:24-35; **Monday**, Numbers 11:4-15, Matthew 14:13-21; **Tuesday (St. John Mary Vianney)**, Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 14:22-36; **Wednesday (Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome)**, Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday (Transfiguration of the Lord)**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Mark 9:2-10; **Friday (St. Sixtus II and Companions St. Cajetan)**, Deuteronomy 4:32-40, Matthew 16:24-28; **Saturday (St. Dominic)**, Deuteronomy 6:4-13, Matthew 17:14-20.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 9-15

Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51; **Monday (St. Lawrence)**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Tuesday (St. Clare)**, Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 7-9, 12, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; **Wednesday (St. Jane Frances de Chantal)**, Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 18:15-20; **Thursday (St. Pontian and St. Hippolytus)**, Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17, Matthew 18:21-19:1; **Friday (St. Maximilian Kolbe)**, Joshua 24:1-13, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday (Assumption of the Virgin Mary)**, Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16-22

Sunday (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Proverbs 9:1-6, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58; **Monday**, Judges 2:11-19, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday**, Judges 6:11-24, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (St. John Eudes)**, Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (St. Bernard)**, Judges 11:29-39, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Pius X)**, Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday (The Queenship of Mary)**, Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12.

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Heard but not seen

Catholic voice actor leads an animated life

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Jim Cummings didn't exactly study his chosen career field during his 12 years of Catholic schooling, but he certainly honed his craft.

The thrice-E Emmy-nominated voice actor was a relentless mimic when going to Immaculate Conception and St. Columba grade schools and Ursuline High School, all in Youngstown, Ohio.

"I'd be doing dolphin sounds in the background," Cummings recalled during July 22 telephone interview from Los Angeles with Catholic News Service.

Cummings then proceeded to do some dolphin clicks and chatter straight out of the old "Flipper" TV series.

"Sister Mary Agnes would say, 'We don't allow dolphin sounds in the classroom, Mr. Cummings,'" he said.

Cummings, a member of St. Jude Church in Los Angeles, got reprimanded over the course of his scholastic career for his mimicry. But he doesn't hold it against his teachers or principals. The feeling is apparently mutual.

"I have a scholarship at my old school in my dad's name, so they don't seem to mind me anymore," Cummings said.

It wasn't all trips to the principal's office for Cummings. He also parlayed his talents into championships for Ursuline during state and regional speech and oratory contests.

Cummings has been plying his trade for 20 years in Hollywood. He has been involved in more than 300 different animation projects, performing multiple voices on many of the shows, according to the Internet Movie Database.

He's up for a Daytime Emmy for outstanding performer in an animated program for his work on the series "My Friends Tigger & Pooh" — although he's up against bigger names such as Amy Poehler and Vanessa Williams.

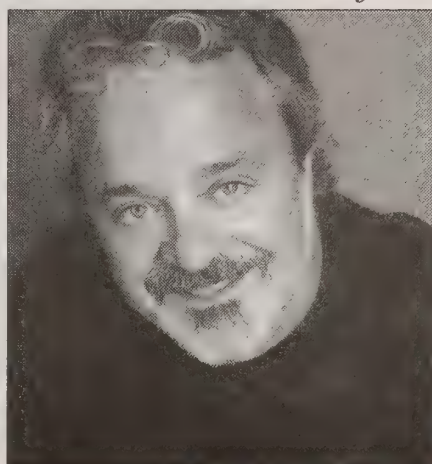
You probably wouldn't know him if you saw him. Because he has been a voice actor, his face has rarely been on screen.

"I'm a stealth celebrity," he joked.

Cummings created the voice of title character Darkwing Duck, a popular Disney cartoon series of the 1990s.

He also has moved into more allowed territory, taking on the voice of Taz, the Tasmanian Devil originally voiced by cartoonism's original man of a thousand voices, Mel Blanc, and also the voices of Tigger and Winnie the Pooh, the latter's voice originally done by actor Sterling Holloway.

It's a challenge to stay true to the voice created by another actor a generation or two earlier, Cummings admitted. One



CNS PHOTO/HANDOUT

Catholic voice actor Jim Cummings is pictured in an undated publicity photo. Cummings is up for a Daytime Emmy for outstanding performer in an animated program for his work on the series "My Friends Tigger & Pooh."

of his biggest challenges was to record practically every conceivable child's name for a talking Winnie the Pooh toy.

"Esquire magazine gave it a prize for 'most interesting name': My Interactive Pooh," Cummings told CNS.

One of Cummings' upcoming projects will hit the silver screen later this year. It's a new Disney movie called "The Princess and the Frog," in which Cummings plays a frog with a Cajun accent named Ray.

The project — which also features the voice talents of Oprah Winfrey, John Goodman and Terrence Howard — will be Disney's first cartoon movie to feature African-American lead characters.

"It's a steady gig," Cummings noted, and if he has any regret, it's for being too sick to audition 20 years ago when a new cartoon series called "The Simpsons" was auditioning actors who could do multiple voices.

"Other than that one, I'm a happy camper. I don't look back in frustration and anger," he said. "I hope for the best, expect the worst, and take what comes."

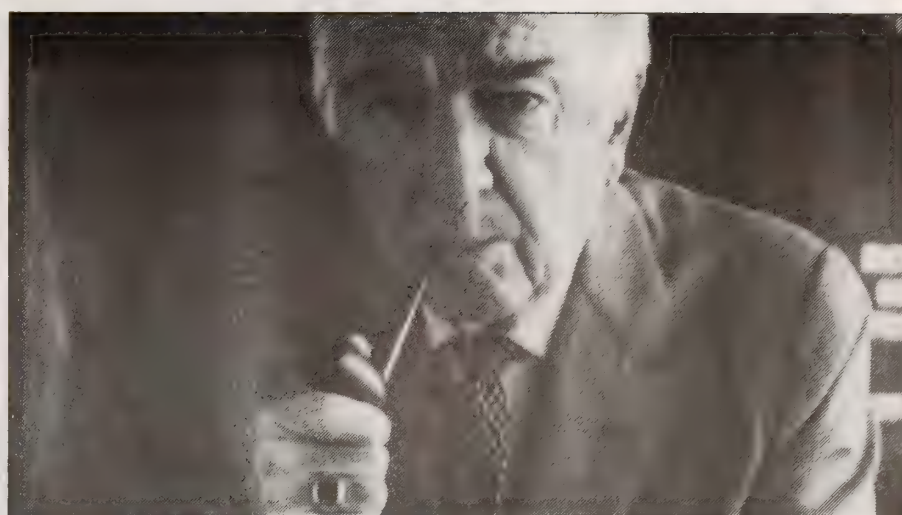
Cummings' TV debut came much earlier than his resume would suggest.

"I was in sixth grade and I remember that Mother Rosemary — who was going to be my speech teacher (in high school) and sort of one of the great shining lights of our scholastic career — she had written and directed a play that they had put on television," he said.

"It was called 'The Catholic School Story.' It was in black and white and I didn't know what to do with myself, I was so happy," he said.

Another Ursuline grad also performed in the TV special and went on to bigger and better things: Ed O'Neill, who, even after it's been off the air for a dozen years, is probably still best known for playing put-upon dad Al Bundy in the TV sitcom "Married With Children."

"I keep meaning whenever I run into him to say I suspect we made our TV debut together. He was a senior in high school," Cummings said. "Ed played Father O'Neill and I played the cute little kid."



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY VIA REUTERS

Former CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite poses with a pipe in this undated photograph. Cronkite, whose authoritative delivery of the news during turbulent times made him "the most trusted man in America," died at his New York home July 17. He was 92.

Cronkite recalled as trusted newsman who made public 'feel the news'

BY JESSIE ABRAMS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — TV news anchor and journalism icon Walter Cronkite, who died July 17 at age 92, made the public "feel the news," said the founding director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, Calif.

"My first memory of Walter Cronkite was seeing him bow his head, visibly moved, when he announced the death of President John F. Kennedy," said Sister Rose Pacatte, a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, who has experience in various media such as television and radio producing.

"The timbre of his voice and his kind countenance made him welcome in every living room in America then and for years after. ... If Edward R. Murrow could be called the brains of the news, then Cronkite was its heart. He made us feel the news; it was personal; the news mattered," she said.

Best known for his news coverage on the "CBS Evening News," Cronkite was known to many as "the most trusted man in America."

He died in his New York home, and his chief of staff, Marlene Adler, told The Associated Press the cause of his death was cerebrovascular disease.

A private funeral was held July 23 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York. A larger memorial was expected to take place at Lincoln Center within a month.

Cronkite served as anchorman for the "CBS Evening News" from 1962 to 1981, covering many memorable events including the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, man's first steps on the moon, the Vietnam War, and the assassination of Kennedy, America's first Catholic president.

Many say they remember him for his sensitive handling of these events.

He received numerous awards and honors throughout his life. In 1980 he was recognized for excellence in broadcasting with the Gabriel Award for personal achievement from what is now the Catholic Academy of Communication Arts Professionals, a national association

of Catholic broadcasters and allied communicators.

He received an honorary degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in 1982 as part of the dedication of a new chemistry research facility. He also received Peabody awards in 1962 and 1981 and multiple Emmy awards over the years.

In 1977 the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights gave the newsman its Earl Butz Bigotry in Media Award for what it said was his biased and inaccurate coverage of a congressional debate over funding for Medicaid abortions.

The league's associate executive director at the time, Michael Schwartz, accused Cronkite of implying the country's Catholic bishops had violated the provisions of church-state separation by objecting to the funding, according to a news story in the CNS archives.

Cronkite also missed the point of the debate, Schwartz said, which was whether Catholics opposed to abortion would be required to help fund abortions for Medicare patients.

Through his work and his career, Cronkite earned admiration from many fellow journalists, media professionals and viewers alike.

The president of the National Catholic Association of Communicators at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, said she analyzed other journalists' work by using Cronkite's report as a ruler.

"I really believe that Walter Cronkite is one of the stellar icons of quality journalism in the United States. He was an authentic journalist; he was someone who I think personally did his homework to present the truth, looking at it from many different perspectives," Sister Zukowski said.

"The way he conducted himself as a journalist called for deep professional respect and admiration," added the nun, who is a member of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart.

According to AP, Cronkite was to be buried in Kansas City, Mo., next to his wife, who died in 2005. He is survived by his three children.

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Teaching teachers



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Jeanine Marsilia, director of religious education at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, demonstrates a visual teaching technique on forgiveness to youth and adult catechists at St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte July 14. Nearly 30 people attended the workshop entitled "Called to be a Catechist."



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Shannon Cutler, director of religious education at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, discusses Edgar Dale's "cone of learning" theory at St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte July 21 to catechists from St. John Lee Korean Church, Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and St. Philip Neri Church in Rock Hill, S.C. The cone is a visual device meant to summarize the classification system for the varied types of mediated learning experiences, as developed by the U.S. educationalist.

The "Skills and Theory" workshop also included techniques to create lesson plans, methods of prayer and the developmental psychology of the learner.

Authoring hope



COURTESY PHOTO

Marylyn Armstrong, head of the parish book club at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, stands with author Kay Bratt, who recently spoke to the group about her book "Silent Tears: A Journey of Hope in a Chinese Orphanage," which details her experiences in China where she volunteered at a children's orphanage. Bratt found the conditions under which the children lived deplorable and worked to improve them.

Benedictine Father Raymond Geyer: 1922 – 2009

Monk served more than 60 years in all apostolates of Belmont Abbey

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Raymond Geyer, a monk and priest of Belmont Abbey for more than 60 years, died peacefully July 26.

A Mass of Christian burial was held July 29 at the Abbey basilica, followed by interment in the Abbey cemetery.

Father Geyer was born Sept. 22, 1922, in Lancaster, N.Y. He attended St. Mary's elementary school and high school in Lancaster, then enrolled in Belmont Abbey Junior College where he earned his associate's degree in 1942.

He subsequently completed his bachelor's degree in sociology at St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kan., and earned his master's in education from Canisius College in 1949.

Father Geyer entered the novitiate for Belmont Abbey at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa., and made his first profession of vows July 2, 1943.

He was solemnly professed on July 11, 1946, and ordained a priest at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., July 4, 1949.

Father Geyer served in all the apostolates of Belmont Abbey.

He taught in the prep school from 1945 to 1947, was organist and choirmaster in the monastery from 1945 to 1949 and served as chaplain of St. Leo's School in Belmont from 1949 to 1950.

He later served as director of admission to Belmont Abbey College from 1970 to 1977.

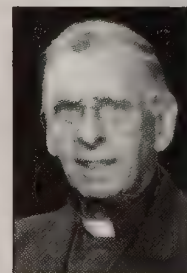
In addition, Father Geyer was assigned to Sacred Heart Priory in Savannah, Ga., where he taught at Benedictine Military School from 1950 to 1959.

He was assigned to St. Benedict's Priory in Richmond, Va., from 1959 to 1970, and again from 1977 to 1983, where he also taught at Benedictine High School.

Father Geyer served as principal at the high school from 1959 to 1962, and as prior of the monastic community there from 1977 to 1983.

His final pastoral assignment was as pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia from 1983 to 1989.

After his return to Belmont Abbey, Father Geyer remained active in



Benedictine Father Raymond Geyer

community life as director of Oblate for 20 years, and he was in charge of the abbey cemetery.

Father Geyer is survived by his brother, Benedictine Father Kenneth Geyer; by the monks of Belmont Abbey and by a sister-in-law in New York.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert, and his sister, Sister Marie Canice Geyer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Belmont Abbey College or St. Michael the Archangel Church.



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Friday, August 14 — "You Don't Know Me Like That!"

Saturday, August 15 — "Look Where He's Brought Me From"



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Pastor of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Catholic Church, Memphis, Tennessee

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Thursday, August 13 — 6:45 pm

St. Mary Catholic Church, Greensboro

Choirs of Immaculate Conception and St. Cecilia's, Baltimore

Friday, August 14 — 6:45 pm

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, Winston Salem

Choirs of Immaculate Conception and St. Cecilia's, Baltimore

Saturday, August 15 — 6:45 pm

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, Charlotte

Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir

REVIVAL MASS

Sunday Mass, August 16 — 10 am

St. Helen Catholic Church, Spencer Mountain

St. Helen Catholic Church Choir

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Considering 'the alternative'

If you really believe in Christ's resurrection, death is behind you

I have a friend who typically conveys news of someone's death by remarking that the deceased person "has joined the majority." Another friend likes to say "he rolled a seven" when reporting that someone we both knew has died.

Deaths of celebrities like Michael Jackson, Ed McMahon and Farrah Fawcett within days of each other can have the effect of forcing people to face up to the inevitability of their own deaths.

I spoke to a woman recently who was well on the road to recovery after a serious illness, and she said, "I'm doing just fine now, considering the alternative."

"But did you ever really consider the alternative?" I asked.

She smiled and said, "I guess I should."

So should we all.

"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit" (1 Cor 2:9-10).

That's God speaking to each one of us. But we refuse to listen in faith. We refuse to permit ourselves positively and hopefully to "consider the alternative."

In an interesting new book "Life, Death, and Christian Hope," Daneen Georgy Warner reflects on the meaning of hope in the context of death.

She points out that because they fail to see their own death in the light of Christ's death and resurrection, many Christians "place their faith and hope in medicine" and thus "harbor a false sense of security concerning their mortality."

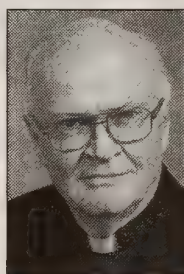
If you really believe in the resurrection of Christ, death is behind you.

"Death's not what you're moving toward," as liturgy pioneer Father Clarence Rivers said years ago, "but what you're coming from!"

The challenge for us, as Warner explains, is to face up to our cultural bias against accepting the fact that death is an inevitable part of life by "shifting our hope in human powers to hope in God."

Looking Around

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Have the courage now to think out loud once in awhile about what it will be like when you "join the majority." That's another way of saying "consider the alternative."

A hymn that is part of night prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours (the Divine Office or Roman Breviary as it is sometimes called) says it nicely, "We praise you, Father, for your gifts/ Of dusk and nightfall over earth/ Foreshadowing the mystery/ Of death that leads to endless day."

You are going to experience "endless day" once you "join the majority." You are going to be eternally awake and eternally aware.

The English word "enthusiasm" comes from two Greek words — "en theos" — meaning "in God." That will be your experience. So you might start thinking now of what eternal enthusiasm will be like for you.

And think of the generations who have gone on before. You will meet them all. You will know the saints to whom you prayed, the historical figures you admired and millions of others whom you never knew existed, and you will be reunited with those you loved the most when they shared space and life with you on this earth.

They will all be part of your eternal awareness. As will the mysteries of faith and the "mysteries" of things like calculus and chemistry that you never managed to translate from textbook print to mental assimilation.

So go ahead now and let yourself say, "I can hardly wait!"

Strong words from a gentle pope

Recent encyclical packed with information on spirituality, theology, economics, politics, ecology and more

It's powerful, it's wise, it's challenging, it's ancient and yet modern: It's Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical letter "Charity in Truth" ("Caritas in Veritate").

Building on over 100 years of Catholic social teaching with a special concentration on Pope Paul VI's encyclical "The Development of Peoples" ("Populorum Progressio"), Pope Benedict takes his predecessor's groundbreaking teaching on international development — with its emphasis on economic justice for all as the basis for peace — and applies it to the economic crisis currently facing the whole world.

Among the contemporary issues the pope focuses on are globalization, microfinancing, intellectual property rights, embryonic research, technology and the environment. And among the old critical issues he concentrates on are poverty, hunger, abortion and violence.

To both new and old areas of concern, the Holy Father applies the always relevant, ancient teaching of the church: that "love is God's greatest gift to humanity, it is his promise and our hope."

Love (or charity) guided by truth teaches us to care for the needs of our human family, especially the vulnerable and poor.

In the truth of God's loving plan, human beings must always come before everything else, including profit. Profit is useful if it is a means toward a good end.

However, "once profit becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty," wrote the pope.

And that is primarily what caused our current economic crisis. Wealth was destroyed, and most of all, poverty was created as a result of a lust for profit that put the accumulation of money and other assets above the good of all.

As a result of this greed, well over 100 million additional people are now hungry. According to a recent U.N. report, for the first time in history more than 1 billion fellow human beings are now starving or undernourished!

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



This unjust distribution of wealth is totally unacceptable to the Holy Father — and should be totally unacceptable to us as well.

Like Pope Paul, Pope Benedict calls for the need to create "a model of market economy capable of including within its range all peoples and not just the better off."

He also continues Pope John Paul II's teaching of promoting a culture of life that recognizes and respects the interconnectedness of all human life from conception to natural death, including all of creation.

The Holy Father urges us to look at our planet as a living being. And he warns that if we continue destroying our environment, we will end up destroying our own life source.

The pope is calling us to better understand and act on the whole of Catholic social teaching. It is not enough to only work for the protection of the unborn or to promote nonviolence and peace, or to strive to end poverty and hunger, or to respect the integrity of creation.

Faithful Catholics are called to do all of the above to the best of our ability!

This encyclical letter is packed with information on spirituality, theology, economics, politics, ecology and more. It is impossible to cover it adequately in one sitting or one column.

Hopefully it will be the ongoing subject of college courses, clergy in-service days, numerous homilies, social justice committee gatherings, corporate board meetings, congressional debates and family conversations.

To do justice to this outstanding encyclical we need to study, pray with and consider how best to act on the teachings of "Charity in Truth."

Story helps connect human family

I wish to extend my humble appreciation and goodwill to the huge contribution made by Clare Liptak to the communities in Tanzania ("Parishioner collects sewing machines for poor in Africa," July 17).

The collection and supply of various items to families and communities in other parts of the world goes a long way to refocus our minds on the usefulness of faith, the value of brotherhood and the

Letter to the Editor

positive values of every corner of God's creation — especially Africa.

This is also evidence that members of the Catholic Church possess the gifts

and courage to deliver consolation at various levels and scale, simultaneously creating mutual benefits.

The issues highlighted in the story extend our horizons to the connections and networks that link the human family across the world. A simple model of interaction underscores this effort while enhancing our understanding of real-time experiences far away from familiar sights and sounds.

— Onyewuchi Obirize
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

When 'happily ever after' doesn't happen

I am sadly rereading a commentary in a July 2007 issue of America magazine titled "A Great Mystery." It is about a misunderstood procedure in the Catholic Church: the annulment process.

I refer to it when people come to me with related questions.

The commentary cites the very public marriage case involving Joseph P. Kennedy, son of the late Robert Kennedy, and his first wife, Sheila Rauch Kennedy. Parents of two children, they were granted an annulment of their 12-year marriage in 1993.

Sheila, writes America, "mounted a campaign to reverse the annulment, publishing a book ("Shattered Faith") strongly criticizing the annulment process, claiming that Kennedy had used his family's influence to obtain the decree."

"The Vatican apparently reversed its decision in 2005, but Rauch was not notified until May of this year, after the document had been translated from Latin." Then America commented, "For so many Catholics the process (of annulments) remains a great mystery."

This is true, unfortunately, but not because the church is keeping the annulment process secret. Not at all.

I have worked with separated and divorced Catholics since the early 1970s, and so many terrific priests worked with us to clarify the church's position on annulments. Today most dioceses have a marriage tribunal, staffed with psycholo-

gists, therapists and often volunteer advocates who assist divorced Catholics seeking remarriage in the church.

"We are here to help," not place blame, is all I've ever heard from these workers.

The real area where the search for truth is crucial in the Catholic marriage situation rests in the four words "whoever God joins together." That phrase used to be interpreted legalistically, not realistically.

For decades now, the definition of Christian marriage hasn't been the old cut-and-dry equation that consent, plus consummation, equals Christian marriage. Scientific progress has been made in understanding the psychology and emotional makeup of people. It can determine if and when a person is capable of entering into a Christian marriage.

One has to have a spiritual base, a faith commitment to the Lord for a marriage to take place. God cannot join two people in matrimony if either of them does not believe in God or his Son.

Once the church began looking at Christian marriage with this new vision that focused on the living, growing relationship of two people and the legal contract, a "broken marriage" could be re-examined, and the church no longer shunted these aside as "hopeless" situations.

With compassion and wisdom the church now asks: Were these two people capable of making vows requiring

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



maturity, or at least the potential for maturing? Was this ever a Christian marriage in the first place?

A "no" response to any of these questions indicated that a Christian marriage never truly existed, freeing the Catholics involved to move past their pain and start afresh.

My longtime friend Father John Catoir, former director of the Christophers and head of a diocesan marriage tribunal, has long expressed a pastoral concern for "the dilemma" of divorced Catholics.

"We are dealing with mystery," he once wrote, explaining that "the sacrament is not something that comes into existence by virtue of a legal presumption."

I agree with him, and with the America commentary that said: "The annulment process is necessarily a private one, dealing in the intimate details of a couple's life together, so it is difficult to assess how these decisions are arrived at in particular cases."

"Nonetheless, it seems clear that the church needs to do a better job explaining how annulments are obtained. For too many Catholics, the process remains a great mystery."

The anatomy of racism

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"He is doing a number of right things, but I still wonder about a black leading this country."

When I heard this from a fairly educated person, I thought to myself, "Racism still persists despite the enormous strides made to overcome it and despite how much schooling a person may have had."

Racism takes many forms. It involves envisioning all people who speak with a strong Southern accent as lynching-mob members of the Ku Klux Klan.

It is seeing Muslims as terrorists, or hearing Koreans, Vietnamese or Japanese speak their language and still considering them enemies of the United States.

It is encountering a black youth walking down the street and feeling the need to take precaution, or watching Jewish boys wearing black fedoras and wondering whether the Jews are behind our economic woes.

It is being irked when hearing Latinos/as speak Spanish even though they can speak English.

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall once remarked, "The United States has been called the melting pot of the world. But it seems to me that the colored man either missed getting into the pot or he got melted down."

A form of racism seldom addressed is the melting pot mentality that holds that everyone else must "melt" into "my" culture.

What is behind such attitudes and feelings?

U.S. civil rights activist Bayard Rustin once wrote: "The resort to stereotype is the first refuge and chief strategy of the bigot."

To be a bigot is to be intolerant. In Latin the word "tolerant" means to lift up. On the other hand, intolerance means to put down.

Ironically, the basis of racism is a sense of inferiority in a person brought up in an atmosphere intolerant of other cultures. Or perhaps this person has never tried or desired to eradicate his or her ignorance regarding other races.

Racists tend to be little people living in a narrow world. They resort to belittling others as a means of being above them and preserving their provincialism.

Racism has been and will always be among us. The next time we detect it, it would be wise to dissect it in order to learn its anatomy.

Studying the makeup of a disease is the best way to stop it.

Proclaiming the Word

If lectors read Scripture verses with love, maybe their hearers would love them too

"If you have something to say, say it clearly." That is what Sister Gabriel, my eighth-grade teacher, told us when we were learning public speaking.

Enunciate clearly. Speak slowly. Speak up. Project your voice to the back of the room. Make sense out of what you are reading. Go over it ahead of time.

All of sister's admonitions apply to lectors who read the Scripture at Mass.

After the Second Vatican Council the church created two ministries for lay people: those of lectors and acolytes.

There actually is a ritual to institute and commission lectors to read Scriptures at liturgies. It is important work.

For most of Christianity's history, average people could not read or write. The printing of books in volume came some 500 years ago. Before then books were expensive and rare. Many people came to know the "good news" of Jesus Christ only when they heard it read aloud in church. This is still true today in many lives.

That is why people should take the ministry of lector seriously.

When St. Paul wrote to his spiritual son Timothy, he reminded him that all Scripture is useful for "teaching." He said to Timothy, "So proclaim the Word."

Paul said proclaim it! Don't

mumble it!

A good lector can make Scripture come alive. He or she can help people to hear familiar passages with new ears.

Too many lectors read Scripture as if they are bored or have never seen the passages before. Or they read so timidly that they cannot be heard.

If Sister Gabriel were to sit on every lector's shoulder, she would remind each of a few commonsense things.

— First, speak up!

Speak directly into the microphone. Don't get so close that you pop your p's. But don't stand back so far that the mike can't pick up your voice. It does no good to read if no one can hear.

If you don't know how to work the microphone, learn. Remember, this is not a conversation; it is a proclamation. Speaking more softly does not make you more sincere.

— Second, speak slowly.

When you are speaking, your voice reverberates in large space. If you think you are talking too slowly, it is probably about right for the person in the pew.

— Third, read the passage ahead of time.

Know the context of the passage, what it is trying to say, so you can know what voice to adopt.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



Unfortunately, it is common to hear Scripture proclaimed as if the lector had never seen it before.

— Fourth, enunciate clearly.

Pronounce unfamiliar words with confidence. If you don't know how to say certain words probably no one else in the church knows either. So look up unfamiliar words ahead of time.

— Fifth, don't dramatize, but don't read in a monotone either.

Scripture is alive! It is a two-edged sword that pierces to the heart. It should not be read as if it were the Black & Decker parts catalogue.

Finally, pray what you read. These are the words of life.

When Pope Paul VI instituted the ministry of lectors, he said the reader should "make every effort ... to acquire the increasingly warm and living love and knowledge of the Scripture that will make him a more perfect disciple."

Therefore he is to "meditate assiduously on the sacred Scripture."

If lectors could read Scripture verses as if they love them, then maybe their hearers would love them too.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



Bishop Peter J. Jugis invites you to the
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
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September 25 & 26, 2009
CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER
No Admission Charge* – Bring Your Friends

FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Concert of Sacred Music
- Keynote Speaker – Immaculée Ilibagiza
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

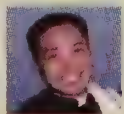
Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



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"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Principal force behind human
development; looking to a
higher law

| PAGES 14-15

AUGUST 14, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 35

Changing times call for ministerial modifications

*Bishop promulgates
new pastoral plan for
Hispanic ministry*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HICKORY — A new pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry was promulgated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis during a celebration at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Aug. 8.

The plan, which will become the guide for Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte from 2009-2012, is the fourth plan of its kind in the dioceses' history. It was derived from previous plans as well as a national plan established by the U.S. bishops.

"The presence of the Hispanic population greatly

See PLAN, page 9

Commitment to fiscal integrity

*Dioceses of
Charlotte's CFO
earns top honor*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's chief financial officer was recognized recently as a top performer among his peers in the Charlotte financial community.

William Weldon was a finalist for Charlotte Business

See WELDON, page 12

Unshrouding the mystery



CNS PHOTO BY CATHOLIC PRESS

Pope Benedict XVI receives a gift of an image of the Shroud of Turin during an audience with pilgrims from Turin, Italy, at the Vatican June 2, 2008. The pope announced at the audience that the Shroud of Turin will be displayed to the public in 2010.

See SHROUD, page 13

A day for discerning

*Young men gather with bishop, priests,
seminarians to discern vocations*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GASTONIA — Some were simply curious to learn more. Some already knew they have a calling to serve.

"I wanted to come and meet the priests, to see how they work, what they do," said 15-year-old Billy Stocker, a parishioner of Queen of the

Apostles in Belmont.

Billy was among the 60 male high school and college students who gathered with the bishop, priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte for a Day of Discernment at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia Aug. 5.

See DISCERN, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Matthew Buettner (left), pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, eats lunch with young men participating in the diocesan Day of Discernment at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia Aug. 5.

To lead, to grow

*Pastor looks forward to
serving, guiding parish*

| PAGE 7

Working for justice

*Parish team works to bring
justice for immigrants*

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch

*Book on animals in
Christianity; new CDs*

| PAGES 10-11

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

RELIGIOUS REPAIR



CNS PHOTO BY AMANDA HUDSON, THE OBSERVER

Gloria Visel works on a damaged statue of Our Lady of Fatima at her workshop in Winnebago, Ill., June 26. The artist's reputation for repairing damaged religious statues dates back 20 years when her pastor asked if she could fix a broken Marian statue.

Repairing religious statues can be opportunity to pray, says artist

ROCKFORD, Ill. (CNS) — Her first job was a decapitation.

The statue of Mary, mother of God, had fallen hard enough to crack off her head, Gloria Visel said as she recalled just how she got started many years ago in her work of repairing religious statues.

Parishioners at old St. Mary Church in Rockford had put the statue back together the best they could, using ribbons to try to hide the scar. But it just didn't look right.

Visel, of Winnebago, had studied art and painting before she began raising her family. With most of her children in school at that point, she volunteered her artistic services. Augustinian Father Edward Kersten, pastor, accepted her offer immediately.

His confidence in her abilities gave her the needed boost to attempt the repairs. That first statue turned out well, and Visel continued volunteering to restore the many other statues in the church. She said some of the church candles were emitting styrene, a substance that was coating the statues and making them dull and gray.

The Infant of Prague was her second patient. He and most of the others at St. Mary Church just needed a good cleaning and a few paint touch-ups. Word of her work on the statues began to spread.

"People started bringing me little statues," she said, "and then some began bringing outdoor statues, which need outdoor paints and finishes."

Visel appreciated that "people brought things that meant a lot to them." She discovered she "could kind of pray, in a way, with my paintbrush. It was hard work (at times), but different from

housework. It was meditative."

The needs of each statue have ranged from a complete overhaul to touch-ups, she said, and some of the repair efforts have been "trial and error." Her tools include toothbrushes, Q-tips and dental instruments for hard-to-reach places.

"Some statues are really old and very fragile, and others come to me in (sturdy) condition," she noted.

Some statues were made of plaster; others were concrete, stone or marble. Most of her work has been with religious statues for parishes and individuals, along with an occasional bust or outdoor rooster statue.

She noted that the images of Mary have changed through the decades, with the older statues filled with many delicate details. At the request of one customer, Visel contacted an antique dealer about a statue, which was traced back to Germany and was likely part of a Stations of the Cross scene.

Visel now charges a "small amount" for her work, and considers many of her hours of work as "part of my time and talent," she said.

"I like images," she said. "They help me focus (my prayer), and statues can trigger a lot of thoughts and meditation."

Her next big project is at St. Anthony of Padua Church. She and a parish staff member will be working on the backdrop at the parish's shrine. Although Visel sees her endeavors as a "solitary work," she thinks having a co-worker for the project will be fun.

As it has over these past 20-some years, her labor of love for the saints and for people continues to evolve.

Sotomayor sworn in; becomes first Latina, sixth Catholic on court

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sworn in Aug. 8 to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Hispanic member of the high court.

In a ceremony at the court building, Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office while the newest justice's mother, Celina, held the Bible on which her daughter placed her hand.

Sotomayor will be formally invested in the court Sept. 8, the afternoon before the court convenes to hear a campaign finance case in an unusual session being held prior to the beginning of the court term Oct. 3.

Sotomayor, 55, was confirmed by the Senate Aug. 6 by a 68-31 vote. She is the sixth Catholic on the nine-member court, the most ever at one time.

A New York native and daughter of Puerto Ricans who struggled to be sure their two children were well-educated, Sotomayor is President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court nominee. She will

take the place of Justice David Souter, who retired at the end of the term in June.

During several days of formal debate on her nomination, a chorus of Senate Democrats and a handful of Republicans recited her inspiring story of being raised in a housing project in the Bronx borough of New York and going on to win scholarships and honors at a rigorous Catholic high school and Ivy League universities.

Senators who voted against Sotomayor's confirmation — all Republicans — took to the floor to complain that they thought she was a "judicial activist," based largely upon comments she has made in speeches, rather than upon anything they could point to in her legal writings.

The other Catholics on the court are Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *St. Gabriel in Transition* (SGIT) is a ministry for those who are, or may soon be, facing job layoffs or transitions during these trying economic times. The program goal is to support job seekers in their search for rewarding employment. Learn how we can open ourselves to new points of view and find opportunity in the face of adversity. The next meeting will be Aug. 20 in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center from 7-9 p.m. Keynote speaker is Mauro Calcano, a successful and experienced human resources leader who has worked with some of the world's most successful companies, who will lead a session on preparation and interviewing tactics. To register, contact Bill Conwell at SGIT@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life presents *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. The next series will begin in August and continue once a month through November. The series will take place at Big View Diner, 16637 Lancaster Hwy. Come and mingle at 6:30 p.m., speaker will start around 7 p.m. The next session will be Aug. 20 on the topic "Christian Love — Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves." For event details, visit www.meetup.com/youngadultlife or e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *respect life Mass* will be celebrated Aug. 22 at 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Following Mass there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to pray a rosary at a local abortion facility. The morning will conclude with Benediction. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine* for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. St. Peregrine has been called the "wonder worker" for his intercession on behalf of those living with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. He is the patron saint of all who are afflicted by cancer, leg ailments, or any incurable diseases, as well as the patron saint of youth at risk. A healing prayer service is offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — There will be an inquiry meeting for those interested in joining a *Dominican Laity Group* (third Order of

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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AUGUST 14, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 35

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Traditional family vital for modern society, Vatican official says

Marriage promotes responsibility, says cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official sharply criticized a sentence by Italy's highest court that said there was no substantial legal difference between a family founded on marriage and a family resulting from a cohabiting couple.

The sentence by the Court of Cassation cited an "evolution" in thinking about the forms that a family takes in modern society.

The ruling, which concerned a case of theft between an ex-cohabiting couple, was described as "a serious attack on the family" by Giuseppe Dalla Torre, a Catholic legal expert interviewed by Vatican Radio Aug. 8.

Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, told Vatican Radio that the traditional

family was needed more than ever today — for family members and for society as a whole.

"I view with concern this progressive slide toward a further privatization of the family, as if the family were irrelevant for society," Cardinal Antonelli said.

"Recent sociological research in various countries has highlighted a series of benefits that the so-called traditional family brings to society, and the numerous damages which the supposed new forms of family — like the single-parent family and cohabitation — bring to society," he said.

The cardinal added that because marriage is a public commitment, not only before the church but also before society, it promotes a more serious sense of responsibility among those involved.

St. Dominic) Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The group is open to all who are in conformity with the teaching of the Magisterium and who are seeking the Dominican spiritual life. For more information, call Mary Snow at (704) 847-4405 or e-mail info@charlottelaydominicans.org. Or visit the Web site at www.charlottelaydominicans.org.

MINT HILL — The sacrament of *Anointing of the Sick* will be offered during a special Mass at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., Aug. 22 at 10 a.m. Anointing is typically presented to those who need healing from physical or mental illness or someone who will be under going surgery. Refreshments will be served after Mass. If anyone is in need of transportation, call Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224. For more information, contact Virginia Horne at (704) 823-0846.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Flames of Fire* charismatic prayer group meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2201 West Market St. All those interested in the charismatic way of life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730 or Lorraine Brown (336) 292-5186.

GREENSBORO — *Elizabeth Ministry* is available to support parents carrying to term following the diagnosis of a fetal defect. The primary focus is to connect parents with others who have continued a pregnancy following a poor prenatal diagnosis. Specialized resource materials and assistance are provided including referrals to community services. Parents of all religions are served. For more information, contact Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 or e-mail elizabethministry@roadrunner.com

GREENSBORO — The *Franciscan family of Greensboro* invites you to an informational session at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center,

477 Grogan Rd. Aug. 23 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the Franciscan way of life for Catholic men and women, this session is for you. For more information, call Frank Massey at (336) 299-5038.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, an organization comprised of Catholic men of Irish birth or descent, will be forming a new division in the Salisbury area. If you are 16 years or older and are proud of your Irish heritage and are interested in your Catholic faith and Irish culture, contact Joe Dougherty, NC State AOH organizer, at (704) 942-6345 or e-mail uniteire@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will host a *one day retreat* entitled "*St. Francis Challenges the Modern World*" by Franciscan Father Jack McDowell. Join us as we learn the Franciscan approach to today's pressing issues and reignite the fires of our faith. The retreat will be held at Holy Family Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Melinda Chiou at melindachiou@gmail.com.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoores@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 20 (12:10 p.m.)
Rite of Candidacy for Gabriel Carvajal-Salazar
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 21 (10 a.m.)
Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Aug. 23 (11 a.m.)
Dedication of St. Mark Church
Huntersville

Aug. 24-26
Annual assembly of bishops and priests
Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

Vatican official: Iraq's Christian community at risk of disappearing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A leading Vatican official called for greater protection of Iraq's beleaguered Christian minority, saying the disappearance of Christianity from the country would be an enormous religious and cultural loss for everyone.

Archbishop Fernando Filoni, who served as the Vatican's nuncio to Iraq from 2001 to 2006, said it was important that Iraqi Christians stem the widespread emigration of their community. That can only happen if they are given a sound basis for hope in the future, he said.

"The authorities must do everything they can so that Christians are a respected and integral part of the life of the country, even if they are a minority," Archbishop Filoni said in an interview Aug. 11 with the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

The Iraqi government meets regularly with church leaders and in theory is committed to protecting Christians, but "this also has to be translated into concrete facts," he said.

The archbishop pointed to the recent restitution of three church-run schools as an important step in the right direction. The schools, two in Baghdad and one in Kirkuk, will be run by Chaldean Catholic nuns, who managed them

before they were nationalized under Saddam Hussein.

"This seems to be an important signal that offers hope and indicates appreciation for the contribution Christians can give to the future of the Iraqi nation," he said.

"Even today, many Muslims remain grateful for the education they received in the Christian schools," he said.

Archbishop Filoni said that despite continuing hardships Christians in Iraq should seize on these opportunities and make the most of them.

If Iraqi Christians continue to emigrate, it won't take long before they'll lose their language, culture and identity — and it will be lost forever, he said.

The archbishop was realistic about the challenging day-to-day situation in Iraq today. He pointed to repeated bombings and other attacks, water and electrical shortages, high unemployment and a struggling educational system.

Under these circumstances, it's normal for Christian parents to wonder what kind of life Iraq will offer their children, he said. At the same time, he added, Christians also need to ask themselves whether they want their religious community to survive in Iraq.

Curbside confessions



CNS PHOTO BY MARCOS BRINDICCI, REUTERS

A priest listens to confession during the annual gathering and pilgrimage to the church dedicated to St. Cayetano, the patron of work and food, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 7. Pilgrims have been camping outside the parish for weeks, waiting to join the thousands that gathered at the church to pray for work.

Taiwanese Catholic Church rushes relief aid to typhoon victims

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan (CNS) — Catholic officials in Taiwan have rushed relief aid to typhoon victims in the south of the island, including Catholics in a village badly hit by a similar storm four years ago.

The Taiwan Catholic Mission Foundation and Caritas Taiwan distributed relief aid and collected donations from local Catholics to aid victims. Bishop Peter Liu Cheng-chung of Kaohsiung set up a relief command center in Pingtung County, where at least four townships were affected.

"We never know what God's plan is and why Taiwan has to suffer miserably. We can only pray for Christ's mercy," he said in his appeal for aid Aug. 11.

"This is the moment for the church to show the spirit of the Gospel," not only by assisting victims, but also by "showing we are the instrument of God by bringing them the love of Christ," the bishop said.

Typhoon Morakot, the most powerful storm to hit Taiwan in the past 50 years, slammed into the island's eastern and southern regions Aug. 8.

NOTICE TO READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is currently on its fortnightly publishing schedule through August. The next issue will be Aug. 28.

Music with a mission



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Ho Lung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, greet those attending a concert at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte Aug. 1. Hundreds of people attended the two-day performances of "Isaiah: A Caribbean Musical" by Father Lung and musicians and singers from Jamaica that raised funds for a crisis pregnancy center on the island.

The Missionaries of the Poor is an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to serving the poor. Their main home is in Kingston, Jamaica, but their missions span the globe.

Father Lung established a mission in Charlotte in 2008.

Giving care



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Filipino American Youth Group take part in a panel discussion with parents and other adults at the Asian Library in Charlotte Aug. 7 about their recent experiences working with the poor in the Philippines.

The youths, mostly Catholic, took part in June in the Gawad Kalinga ("to give care") Project, a Catholic organization founded by Couples for Christ to build homes for the poor and homeless in the Philippines.

They helped build homes and organize entertainment and games for children of the region.

New Knightly officers



COURTESY PHOTO

Oblate Father Albert Gondek (back row, third from right), pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington and chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 12481, stands with the council's newly elected officers after an installation ceremony after Mass at the church Aug. 1.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization.

Council 12481 provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church and the community.

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FROM THE COVER

"Discernment day ... makes them think about the priesthood more seriously."

Young men discern possible vocations to priesthood

DISCERN, from page 1

The daylong event allowed the young men to interact and ask questions of the clergy and seminarians to discern what God is asking of their lives and to explore their possible callings to the priesthood.

In addition to attending Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, the young men spent the day in prayer, eucharistic adoration and talks with the priests and seminarians.

The day also included sports, games and a panel discussion with a question-and-answer session about life in the priesthood and seminary.

Billy said he has always had a calling toward the priesthood.

"I want to help people and help them get closer to God," he said.

"Discernment day allows young Catholic men to realize that the call to the priesthood is a real possibility for them," said Father Christopher Gober, pastor of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and St. Bernadette Mission in Linville and vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The day gives them a context to see other men are thinking about it as well," he said.

"They realize they aren't the only ones thinking about a calling to the priesthood," said Father Benjamin Roberts, parochial vicar of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

Father Roberts, who was ordained in June, has attended every discernment day since 2005 and was on hand to talk to the participants about life as a newly ordained priest. "It's been wonderful ... more amazing than I thought it would be," he said.

Discernment day, said Father Gober, allows young men to see "that the



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Seminarians Lucas Rossi (right) and Paul Buchanan (center) share laughs and lunch with Zachary Carter (right), a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, and other young men attending the diocesan Day of Discernment at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia Aug. 5.

priesthood is a joyful life."

"I've been thinking about the priesthood for a year," said 19-year-old Josh Herman, a parishioner of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

"I wanted to come and get a better understanding of what I may be getting myself into," he said with a smile.

"The joy," said Father Roberts, "is seeing young men come to discernment day and then enter the seminary a few years later."

Wendell Sawyer was one of those young men. The 20-year-old attended last year's discernment day and is now attending St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania.

"All the signs pointed to the priesthood," he said. "Discernment day jolts people out of their comfortable

surroundings and makes them think about the priesthood more seriously."

Bishop Jugis said he believed there were some future priests in the recent group.

"I was happy to spend the day with these young people who are exploring the idea of a call to the priesthood," said the bishop.

"Every day I pray a rosary specifically for our seminarians, and for

all the young people of our diocese who are exploring the idea of priesthood or religious life," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about vocations to the priesthood, contact the diocesan vocations office at (704) 370-3353 or visit www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Transitional Deacon John Eckert talks with young men participating in the diocesan Day of Discernment at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia Aug. 5.

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Belmont Abbey College rejects EEOC discrimination claims

Catholic college stands by church teaching

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has rejected a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determination that it discriminated against women and retaliated against faculty members who filed an employment discrimination charge.

In a statement released Aug. 10, college officials refuted the claim that the college discriminated based on gender in its decision to remove contraceptive benefits from its faculty health coverage plan in accordance with Catholic teaching.

"Belmont Abbey College rejects the notion that by following the moral teachings of the Catholic Church we are discriminating against anyone," said the statement. "We are simply and honestly exercising the freedom of religion that is protected by the Constitution."

After a faculty member discovered that contraception, abortion and voluntary sterilization were covered by the college's health care policy, the drugs and procedures were removed from the plan in December 2007. Though North Carolina requires this coverage, it offers an exemption for religious institutions.

"The teaching of the Catholic Church on this moral issue is clear. The responsibility of the college as a Catholic college sponsored by the monks of Belmont Abbey to follow church teaching is equally clear," wrote college president Dr. William Thierfelder in a 2008 letter to faculty defending the decision.

"There was no other course of action possible if we were to operate in fidelity to our mission and to our identity as a Catholic college," he wrote.

"The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College," published by the Catholic higher education organization

the Cardinal Newman Society, has listed Belmont Abbey College as an example of a faithful Catholic college.

The case was thought closed when in March 2009 the college received a "Dismissal and Notice of Rights" determination letter from the EEOC, saying the commission was closing its file on the discrimination charge. According to the college, the file was closed because the commission was unable to conclude that the college's decision to change the employee health plan violated the statutes.

"We were surprised to learn that the EEOC has now reversed itself," the college's recent statement said.

By denying prescription contraception drugs, the college "is discriminating based on gender because only females take oral prescription contraceptives," wrote Reuben Daniels Jr., the EEOC Charlotte District Office director, in the Aug. 5 determination.

"By denying coverage, men are not affected, only women," wrote Daniels.

The EEOC also determined the college retaliated against eight faculty members who filed charges with the EEOC by identifying them by name in a letter to faculty and staff.

"We have not — and will not — 'retaliate' against the faculty members who complained to the EEOC," said the college statement.

The EEOC asked both the faculty and the college to work with it to reach a resolution. If the college declines to discuss the settlement or an acceptable settlement is not reached, the director would inform the two sides and advise them of the court enforcement alternatives available.

"We are disappointed that this matter

Summer fun and faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Teenagers perform a gospel rendition of "In the Name of Jesus" during the closing ceremony of the vacation Bible school at St. Mark Church in Huntersville June 23. More than 300 children and more than 180 parent and teen volunteers took part in the June 20-23 program, this year themed "SonRock Kids Camp" and involving crafts, games, skits, music and faith.

Pictured are (first row, from left) Laura Espitia, Camile Gaillard, Sydney Antonlini, Kendall Smith, Maddie Fink and Katie Reilly; and (second row, from left) Megan Taylor, Jackie Campo, Kaitlyn Sawicki, Allie Fisher and Devyn Ziegler.

has taken this very unusual twist, but we remain committed to ensuring that all of the college's policies and practices follow the teachings of the Catholic Church, which includes valuing all life and treating individuals with dignity and respect, and providing equal opportunities for all," said the college's statement.

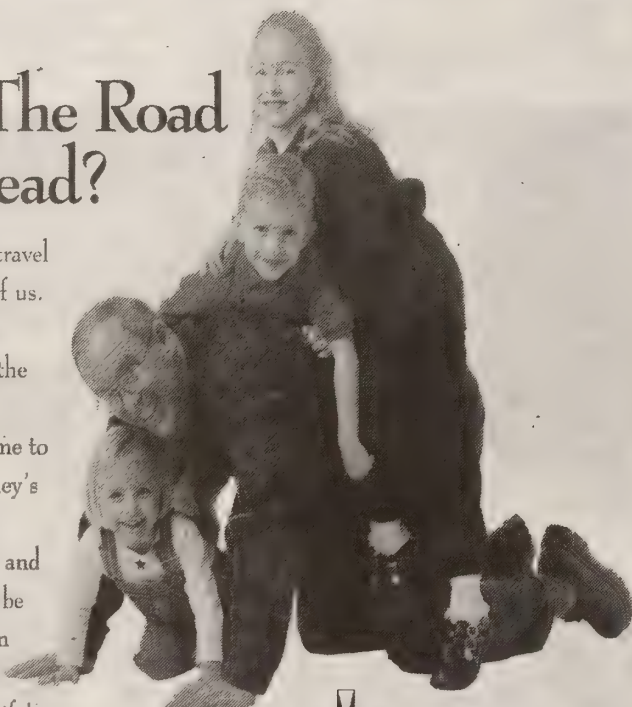
The statement said the college was confident its actions would be found in compliance with all federal and state laws and with the U.S. Constitution.

"Accordingly, the college will be asking the EEOC to reconsider each of the current determinations it has made in connection with the charges filed against the college," it said.

What's The Road Like Ahead?

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A combined event, sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, on the theme:

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Site for Friday evening's activities - St. William Church in Murphy, NC
Site for Saturday's activities - Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC

The Friday evening and Saturday event features four Plenary Speakers presented below in order of appearance in weekend schedule:

Rev. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte
W. Joseph Mann, Director, Rural Church Division, The Duke Endowment
Rev. Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA
Rev. George M. Kloster, Pastor, St. William and IHM Catholic Churches

Go to www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for registration procedures and additional information, including Hinton Rural Life Center (HLRC) lodging opportunities. Since event meeting space is limited to 100 people, and lodging options at HLRC and area hotels during the autumn season are also limited, early registration is recommended.

Questions? Call 704-370-3225 or E-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org, Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

To lead, to grow, to love

Pastor looks forward to serving, guiding parish in Hendersonville

BY KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — “Many things happen in a spiritual conversion” says Capuchin Franciscan Father Nick Mormando.

Father Mormando arrived from New York to assume the role of pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Feb. 25, 2009. The date coincided with Ash Wednesday, a fitting beginning for the priest who assumes the pastorate with a reflective spirit and measured thoughtfulness regarding his new position.

During his first several months,

Father Mormando met his parishioners, considered the programs in place at the church and at Immaculata School, and listened to what was wanted and needed for both.

The listening session led to the discovery that many within the parish were filled with an eagerness to grow and extend the faith and outreach of the church.

“There is a willingness to make the (church) community grow,” said Father Mormando. “They come forth to share themselves with one another, to offer themselves.”

“Too often people don’t realize the talent they bring. There are many who think they only have a little, but like the boy with the loaves and fishes, look what

happens when a little is turned over to the Lord.”

During ecumenical interactions with other church leaders in Hendersonville, Father Mormando has felt warmly welcomed to his new home in the community.

“There is always room to grow in mutual understanding and knowledge of others’ faith,” he said.

“I’ve been asked by so many how I was doing here. They want to know how I am adjusting to the difference between the large city and a small town, but I’ve been so welcomed that I haven’t had a difficult adjustment.”

What is meant to be

Father Mormando’s faith journey began in Catholic elementary school, and while attending a public high school he continued to regularly attend Mass — a defining decision in his commitment to his Catholic faith.

After high school he resumed his education at St. Francis College in

Brooklyn, N.Y. Seeking to join the Capuchin Franciscans, he furthered his studies with two years at St. Joseph’s Seminary in the Archdiocese of New York, where he professed perpetual vows in 1987. But he was not ordained as a priest until 13 years later.

“When I left seminary after two years I thought to myself, I’ve made a mistake,” recalled Father Mormando, “but one of my spiritual mentors advised me to ‘put it on the back burner and if it comes back, then you will know it was meant to be.’”

“I was slow in coming. I gave God a struggle,” Father Mormando said with a smile.

During the intervening years after profession of vows and ordination, he spent most of the time in parish work, but also was involved in vocations and even cooked at the novitiate.

“I came from an Italian Catholic family and I like to eat, so I learned to cook,” he said.

Toward the future

Arriving at Immaculate Conception Church, Father Mormando had his own ideas for the parish, but decided he would wait and listen to the people to hear what they wanted and had to offer.

“God is letting me know through them. My vision may not be God’s; you have to be willing to let go of your own to find the strength and grace to implement what God wants,” he said.

“Many are spiritually hungry and I am here to feed them,” said Father Mormando. “People are sensing something good is about to happen. Here in the church is a core group of intercessors. Their prayers are bringing blessings down on this place and they are not even aware they are doing it.”

Seeing great openness to what God is doing among the parishioners, Father Mormando has noted the great work being done within the existing parish groups, including two that are particularly active — the youth group and the Hispanic community.

Additional parish programs being considered include the establishment of a Cursillo group, a new Bible study and eucharistic adoration.

“I need to know they want to deepen their faith and are willing to go the next step,” said Father Mormando.

Particularly, he feels the institution of eucharistic adoration must be considered when the community is ready for the fullness of the experience.

“Adoration is part of a big spiritual awakening in the hearts of people and within the parish as a whole,” he said.

“There are already great things in place here,” said Father Mormando. “For the future there is much hope as we work toward growth and, through the presence of God, open up to a willingness to offer our works and faith throughout the community.”



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Capuchin Franciscan Father Nick Mormando, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, greets parishioners after Mass Aug. 9.

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Joint operation for justice

Group hopes to affect immigration reform, assist community

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — In cooperation with the U.S. bishops, a small but dedicated group at Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville has begun working for immigration reform.

Working from a position based on Scripture and Catholic social teaching, the parish Justice for Immigrants Team is hoping to foster change and uncover avenues that will restructure current immigration policies in order to ease situations faced by communities throughout the country.

Justice for Immigrants is a campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops with the goals of educating the public and Catholic community about migration and immigrants; creating political will for positive immigration reform; enacting legislative and administrative reforms based on the bishops' principles; and organizing Catholic networks to help qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of reform.

The parish Justice for Immigrants team, which meets monthly, is uniting with other religious and community groups to create a coalition to help usher in change and reform.

About 25 people from the team and other area groups gathered at the historic courthouse in downtown Hendersonville July 31 for a 45-minute vigil in support of changes to current laws to allow opportunities for permanent residency for the millions of undocumented people currently residing in the United States.

"There was no negative response, but some positive response from people who were there" said Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvias, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church.

Father Salvias works extensively with the Hispanic community at Immaculate Conception Church.

A second vigil is planned for Aug. 28, and vigils are expected to continue on the last Friday of every month.

The Justice for Immigrants Team hopes to continue networking with other local efforts to affect the changes they seek. Mini-conferences held throughout the state work to bring the ecumenical efforts together, and team members

will attend one such conference in Asheville Sept. 3.

"The effort is fragmented," said Grace Poli, a team member, about the variety of challenges the effort faces. "We have had major problems with getting people to change from using the terms 'legal' and 'illegal' to 'documented' and 'undocumented.'"

"The most important thing we can do is to write letters," said Catherine Lynch, team coordinator, who distributes sample letters to send to the congressional representatives.

To help put a face on the immigration reform issue, on Sept. 19-20 Immaculate Conception Church will be among the area churches to hold a "Welcome the Immigrant" weekend. Immigrants have been invited to share their personal stories.

The U.S. bishops have stated they do not support anyone defying the law, but instead they seek to amend laws currently in place.

As such, the team plans to continue fighting for policy reformation, encouraging others to show hospitality and to welcome immigrants in their communities, and bringing a faith perspective to an issue with no easy answers.

Father Salvias said he has faced criticism for addressing immigration in his homilies.

"For me this is not about politics. This is about the Gospel," he said.

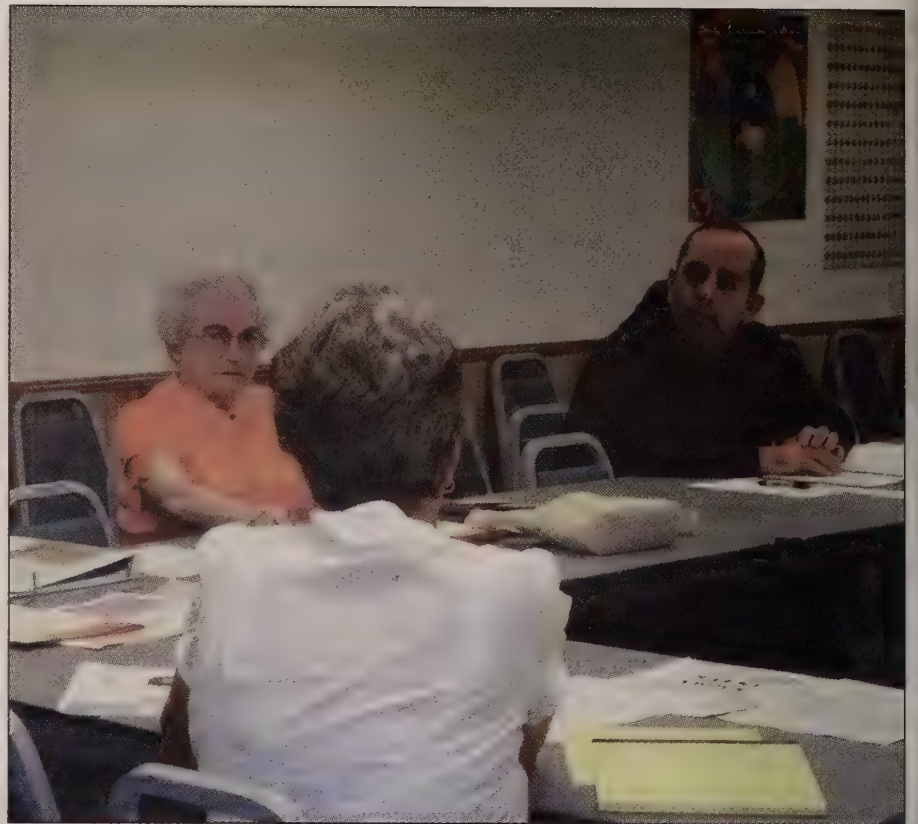
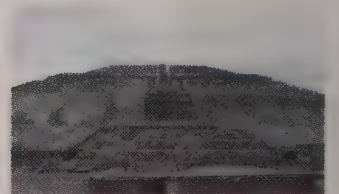


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvias (right), parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church, takes part in a Justice for Immigrants Team meeting at the church Aug. 10. Also pictured (from left) are Patricia Paton and Sue Poli.

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HISPANIC MINISTRY

Bishop promulgates new Hispanic ministry pastoral plan

PLAN, from page 1

enriches our local church," said Bishop Jugis in a letter included at the front of the new pastoral plan.

"I am happy to present this pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry, which will help guide our growth in Christ as a diocesan family for the next three years," the bishop said.

According to the plan's introduction, the diocese looked to the 1987 "National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry" as a model.

The first pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte was approved in 1992 after adapting the national plan to fit the needs of Catholics in Western North Carolina. A second plan was promulgated in 1998 and a third in 2002.

According to Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry, there is a need every few years to re-evaluate the goals of Hispanic ministry in the diocese. With this new plan, there were two primary concerns that were taken into consideration.

The first is an accommodation for changing circumstances within the Hispanic community, according to Sister Inkott, and the second is a call for refocusing based on societal changes she refers to as the "signs of the times."

One thing Sister Inkott wants

people to realize is that "the principles (of the plan) apply to all immigrant communities."

"Our whole country, our whole word is experiencing a mixing of cultures coming together," said Sister Inkott. "The church is going to be multicultural also."

"This plan is for the whole diocese," she said. "The goal is to bring all people to the table as one family of God in the Diocese of Charlotte."

Inspiration for the plan came from Pope John Paul II's call for new evangelization as detailed in the document "Encuentro & Mission, A renewed Pastoral Framework for Hispanic Ministry."

The plan has four specific dimensions: formation, missionary option, pastoral de conjunto or "communion in mission," and liturgy and prayer.

According to Sister Inkott, each dimension has goals and offers actions and suggestions for carrying them out.

She said her hope is "that more people will know what the plan is, understand it and be willing and able to put it into practice."

"In order for the pastoral plan to work, everyone has got to work with it," she said.

To date the diocese has 60 parishes and missions working with Hispanic communities. Each of its 10 vicariates has a Hispanic ministry coordinator. In addition there is a diocesan coordinator for Hispanic youth ministry.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates Mass at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Aug. 8. The Mass culminated the celebration of the bishop's promulgation of the new Hispanic ministry pastoral plan for the diocese. Also pictured (from left) are Father Jose Antonio Juya, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Gastonia Vicariate; Deacon Dario Garcia, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Hickory Vicariate; and Carmelite Father Hugo Canavan, a Colombian missionary.



COURTESY PHOTO

Enedino Aquino (left), Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Greensboro Vicariate, serves as emcee of the celebration of the bishop's promulgation of the new Hispanic ministry pastoral plan for the diocese at the Catholic Conference Center Aug. 8.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Authors explore place of animals in Christianity

Books discuss if God's plan for salvation includes creatures

BY TRISTA TURLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Two new books by Christian authors Father Jack Wintz and Leila Harris explore the place of animals in Christianity.

In his book "Will I See My Dog in Heaven?" Father Wintz, a Franciscan friar, explores whether or not God's plan for salvation includes creatures other than humans.

Harris' "All of the Animals in the Bible" is a topical index of all animals that appear in Scripture.

The question in the title of his book "sounds like a naive kid's question," Father Wintz said in an interview with Catholic News Service June 13, "but I think it fits in this broader context (of the question of salvation for all creation.)"

Father Wintz said his motivation to write the book stemmed largely from his experience as a Franciscan.

"I have a great fascination for St. Francis of Assisi, especially his great love and respect for animals as well as for trees, rivers, wild flowers and creation as a whole," he stated.

Throughout the book's 10 chapters, Father Wintz utilizes evidence from Scripture, the works of St. Francis of Assisi and Judeo-Christian tradition to make the case that God intends to save all of creation, including beloved pets.

The evidence includes some familiar stories such as that of Noah, as well as less familiar works like St. Francis' "Cantic of Brother Sun," a song of praise in which St. Francis refers to all of creation as brothers and sisters of man.

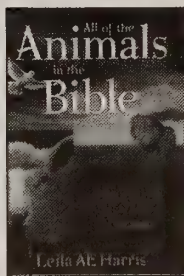
While Father Wintz believes that there is strong evidence to indicate that all of creation is included in God's plan for salvation, he acknowledges that Christians are divided on the issue.

"It's true that we know little detail about (heaven) or how animals and other creatures will be included in the picture," he stated.

While "Will I See My Dog in Heaven?" includes a substantial amount of theological analysis, Father Wintz said the book also includes several stories and is "for a wide, popular audience."

"A lot of (the theology) is very simple," said the priest, who was in Washington for a book signing at the Franciscan monastery.

Father Wintz is a longtime writer



and editor for St. Anthony Messenger magazine, based in Cincinnati.

Harris' book provides the original Greek or Hebrew term and the English translation for each animal, followed by a synopsis and analysis of their natural and symbolic roles in the Bible. A knowledge quiz also is included to keep readers entertained.

Harris told CNS in a June 11 telephone interview that the comfort she found in God's symbolic use of animals in Scripture inspired her to write the book.

A self-described animal lover, she believes her work on the book reinforced her love for animals.

Harris said that there is a wealth of scriptural evidence to demonstrate that God, too, cares about animals.

"(God) created animals before he created humans," she said, adding that "man's first job was to name and take care of animals."

Like Father Wintz, Harris said she believes there will be animals in heaven.

"(There are) animals in the Book of Revelations -- the beasts around the throne of God," she noted.

However, Harris also stated that, because Jesus died exclusively for the souls of men, she cannot be sure that specific, individual animals from our lives on earth will be present in the afterlife.

Harris believes her book will appeal largely to Christians who enjoy studying the Bible. She also hopes that the book can help introduce other animal lovers to Christ.

"(I want) to bring Christians closer to the Lord," she said.

"All of the Animals in the Bible" is the first in a series of books by Harris, who holds a degree in religious studies from Regent University.

Her second book, "All of the Trees in the Bible," is scheduled for release later in June.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 14, 2009

Aug. 23, Twenty-first
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21
- 2) Ephesians 5:21-32
Gospel: John 6:60-69

Decisions, trust should be placed in God's hands

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

God's faithfulness and trustworthiness seems to be a theme throughout this week's readings.

Joshua challenges the tribes of Israel to decide whom they will follow: strange gods or the Lord, the God of their fathers.

After Joshua makes his own firm declaration, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," the people respond likewise, recalling that it was the Lord who brought them out of slavery, performed miracles and protected them on their entire journey.

The passage from John comes after Jesus' bread of life discourse. Jesus asks his disciples, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answers, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Moments of challenge and decision. We all have them, though not often as dramatic as these. They become turning points in our lives.

We resist a fatal temptation. We choose a path for our lives with such determination that it forms us in ways we hadn't expected. We remain faithful to our principles and our commitments and in so doing form a solid foundation not only for our own lives, but for the lives of our spouses and children.

At a wedding near Houston recently, my wife and daughter and I gathered with old friends from our prayer community in Fort Worth. Though we haven't met formally in years, these friendships of 20-30 years and more endure.

We still love and pray for one another, and we still love and pray for each other's children as though they were our own.

As we visited over coffee or a meal, we recounted stories of God's miraculous interventions in our lives and the lives of our children. We rejoiced together over the goodness of God, of his faithfulness in answering our prayers and in continuing his work of redemption in us and our children.

Decades ago, we had each answered for ourselves, sometimes in the very words of Joshua, the eternal question of how we would live our lives, and despite our frailties and failings, the joy that came from attempting to live out that affirmation was palpable.

If we had it to do over again, all of us would say once more, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Questions:

Have you considered placing major life decisions in God's hands? How have you experienced God's redemptive grace in your own life?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"It was the Lord, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. ... Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God" (Joshua 24:17-18).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 16-22

Sunday (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Proverbs 9:1-6, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58; **Monday**, Judges 2:11-19, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday**, Judges 6:11-24, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (St. John Eudes)**, Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (St. Bernard)**, Judges 11:29-39, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Pius X)**, Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday (The Queenship of Mary)**, Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 23-29

Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18, Ephesians 5:21-32, John 6:60-69; **Monday (St. Bartholomew)**, Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Tuesday (St. Louis of France, St. Joseph Calasanz)**, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 23:23-26; **Wednesday**, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32; **Thursday (St. Monica)**, 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday (St. Augustine)**, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday (Martyrdom of John the Baptist)**, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11, Mark 6:17-29.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 30-SEPT. 5

Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; **Monday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday**, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday**, Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday (St. Gregory the Great)**, Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday**, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday (Bl. Teresa of Calcutta)**, Colossians 1:21-23, Luke 6:1-5.

Pope Benedict to be featured singing on CD of Marian prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The music-loving Pope Benedict XVI will be featured on a new CD singing and reciting Marian hymns and prayers.

"Alma Mater," Latin for "nourishing mother," will be released worldwide Nov. 30 by Geffen Records.

Using material recorded by Vatican Radio, the album will feature Pope Benedict singing the "Regina Coeli" hymn to Mary as well as prayers and snippets of talks in Latin, Italian, Portuguese, French and German, Geffen announced July 31.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman and director of Vatican Radio, said the radio authorized use of about 10 minutes of the pope's voice for the project, which was developed by Geffen and by the multimedia production company of the Pauline Fathers.

Geffen said proceeds from the sale of the CD would be used to provide music education to underprivileged children around the world.

The CD will include the Litany of Loreto and other popular Marian prayers along with eight original classical compositions commissioned for the project.

The pieces featuring the pope will

be accompanied by the choir of the Philharmonic Academy of Rome singing in St. Peter's Basilica. The new classical pieces will be recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Geffen said.

In 1994, Vatican Radio authorized the publication of a CD featuring Pope John Paul II reciting the rosary in Latin; sold with a commentary in a variety of languages, the CD was an instant hit.

Pope Benedict has not commented on the CD project, but he spoke about music as a universal language after a concert Aug. 2 in the courtyard of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo.

The pope apologized to Italians in the audience for speaking in German, but said he did so because the orchestra and many of the guests were German.

"Unfortunately, after the events of the tower of Babel, languages separate us, creating barriers," the pope said.

But, he said, peoples of all tongues can understand the language of music "because it touches our hearts. For us, this is not only a guarantee that the goodness and beauty of God's creation has not been destroyed, but it also reminds us that we are called to and capable of working together for what is good and beautiful."



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF SAINT BENEDICT

Benedictine Sister Margaret Mandernach plays her harmonica in this undated photo. Sister Mandernach, who also plays the electric bass, and Benedictine Sister Ellen Cotone, who plays both the piano and the accordion, produced a CD titled "Sisters in Sync."

Benedictine sisters' love of music results in CD recording

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A pair of Benedictine sisters in Minnesota, both in their 70s, aren't afraid of trying new things: They learned how to record a CD — and are using a blog to promote it.

The CD is "Sisters in Sync," performed by Sister Ellen Cotone, who played both the piano and the accordion on the recording, and Sister Margaret Mandernach, who played the electric bass and the harmonica.

Both live in retirement at the Benedictines' St. Scholastica retirement home in St. Cloud, Minn., six miles away from their monastery in St. Joseph, Minn.

Sister Cotone and Sister Mandernach played at social gatherings organized at either the monastery or retirement home, and people started asking, "Where can we get a tape of your music?"

"When we decided to make a tape, it was, of course, a CD," Sister Mandernach said. "Tapes are obsolete."

Sister Mandernach went to a recording studio that had recorded the Benedictine monastery's schola, or choir, some time earlier.

The studio owner said he would do the recording project at no charge.

Sister Cotone and Sister Mandernach, neither of whom had stepped into a recording studio before, recorded the CD's 30 songs in just two days, with each session lasting about two hours.

They used a third day to do overdubs with Sister Cotone on the accordion and Sister Mandernach on the harmonica, "just for variety's sake," Sister Mandernach said.

"We had never done recording before, so the overdubs were very interesting," she said. After the CD was recorded, "our monastery blog wrote about it," she added.

The CD, which features tunes in a variety of styles — including polka, calypso, sacred songs and popular

standards ("by popular we mean the 1930s and '40s," Sister Mandernach said) — zips by fairly quickly, as the 30 selections take but 52 minutes or so to play.

"We chose songs that were spirited and uplifting and kind of peppy — easy to listen to," according to Sister Mandernach. "We wanted to bring joy and peace to people by doing this, as well as taking care of our own passion for music."

The CD, while available at the monastery's gift shop, was never meant to be a fundraiser for the Benedictines. The sisters accept only donations for the CD, since so much effort on the CD was donated to them.

Even so, the sisters have had to order a second batch of "Sisters in Sync" to keep up with demand, especially after the nuns were profiled in the St. Cloud Daily Times newspaper.

Sister Mandernach and Sister Cotone have been making music together for seven years, after they both joined the retirement community.

"We clicked," Sister Mandernach said.

They play outside the monastery or retirement home infrequently, but they do take part in a monthly jam session in St. Cloud.

"We just say the name of the tune, and what key we're going to play it in, and everybody joins along," Sister Mandernach added.

They also have performed occasionally with an outfit known as the Central Minnesota Musicians Unorganized Organization.

"We get together once in a while, just for fun, when there's an occasion to play at," Sister Mandernach said.

She said she once asked Sister Cotone, "Wouldn't it be great to play more with the Central Minnesota Musicians Unorganized?"

"Well, that's the way it goes," was Sister Cotone's reply. "We're in a convent. We have other responsibilities."

Marian melody



CNS PHOTO BY ANDREW JUNKER, CATHOLIC SUN

International recording artist Filippa Giordano sings a hymn next to a display that contains a piece of St. Juan Diego's "tilma," or cloak, during the Knights of Columbus first International Marian Congress in Glendale, Ariz., Aug. 8. When Mary appeared to the saint as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she left her image on his cloak, which today is in Mexico City's basilica. The small piece of his cloak, or relic, was brought to Arizona by the Knights.

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of August, here is a look at the 140-year history of St. James the Greater Church in Concord



ARCHIVES PHOTO

St. James the Greater Church in Concord as it appeared in 1927.

On Jan. 1, 1869, Bishop (and future cardinal) James Gibbons acquired land on Gold Hill Road in Cabarrus County. The hill-top property became the first location of St. James the Greater Church and the second Catholic cemetery established in western North Carolina.

The fruition of a church in Concord began with the conversion of Joseph Barnhardt and his family, who entered into the Catholic Church in 1842.

Barnhardt zealously shared the Catholic faith with his neighbors. Over time, a community of Catholics formed in the area.

Barnhardt died in 1860, and nine years later his son-in-law, George Goodman, deeded the land for the original church and cemetery. This original cemetery remains the oldest active Catholic cemetery in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father J.J. O'Connell served the mission for many years before the construction of an actual church building. In his book "Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia," Father O'Connell wrote of both the town of Concord and the Barnhardts. In the following passage, he recounted one of his more miraculous episodes and highlighted the dangers of being Catholic in Cabarrus County during the 1800s.

"During one of my visits [to Concord] in 1854, after my retirement at night to the priest's apartment, which was a genteel shed-room, Mr. B[arnhardt] approached and directed me to make the fastening secure on the inside. He manifested equal industry in barring the entrance from the outside.

"On enquiring the cause of this unusual precaution, he assured me that my life was in danger, and that he expected a mob would attack the house some night and kill me; that I was deemed by the neighborhood an envoy or emissary of the pope, and had come for the sole purpose of upsetting the government; that it was resolved that I should not escape with my life.

"He also assured me that a certain man known to him lay in ambush in the woods, and kept snapping his hitherto unerring rifle at me until I was out of sight, and that it hung fire every time, a circumstance which never before occurred" (pg. 491).

Father O'Connell also told of the eventual acceptance and growth of the Catholic faith in and around Concord due to the witness of the Barnhardt family.

"It was through this family that Catholicity made its way into Cabarrus County. ... Within the space of 25 years nearly all the settlement have embraced the faith" (pg. 489).

These historical accounts of the St. James community reflected the typical

struggles and peril facing North Carolina Catholics during the 19th century, as well as the strength, determination and character of those who came before us in the faith.

— Aug. 1, 1869: Bishop James Gibbons dedicated St. James the Greater Church.

— 1876: St. James became the first mission of Belmont Abbey when Benedictine Father Herman Wolfe was assigned to serve the community.

— Aug. 26, 1925: A letter from Benedictine Father Herman Grones spoke of the mission at Concord as "consoling" due to the fact that 25-30 parishioners received Communion at Mass. At this time, this number was remarkable because Mass took place once every third Sunday of the month.

Father Grones stated "there should have been a priest stationed here the past 10 years, [and] Concord should have Mass more than once a month."

— November 1928: The Sisters of Mercy begun visits to St. James Church for catechetical instruction.

— 1936: Belmont Abbey relinquished St. James Church and it became a mission of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle.

— 1945: Father Thomas Curran became the first resident pastor of the church.

— 1947: St. James Church was designated a parish.

— February 1954: The original church building on Gold Hill Road burned down.

— July 31, 1954: St. James Church recorded 221 parishioners.

— May 22, 1955: Raleigh Bishop Vincent S. Waters dedicated the second St. James Church at its new location on Union Street in Concord.

— Fall 1964: St. James Church installed air conditioning. Concerning this event, Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor, wrote: "We are beginning to 'lose' some of our parishioners on Sunday morning during the summer to St. Peter's in Charlotte."

— Aug. 2, 1967: St. James Church took over custodial care of the St. Joseph Mission in Kannapolis.

— July 31, 1971: St. James Church grew to 500 parishioners.

— Aug. 29, 1974: Redemptorist Father George Kelly became the first Redemptorist to serve as pastor. The Redemptorists have continuously staffed the parish to the present.

— July 31, 1994: Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the parish center.

— Dec. 5, 2004: Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the latest St. James Church constructed on Manor Avenue in Concord.

— July 1, 2007: St. Joseph Mission ceased to be a mission of St. James Church as it was designated a parish.

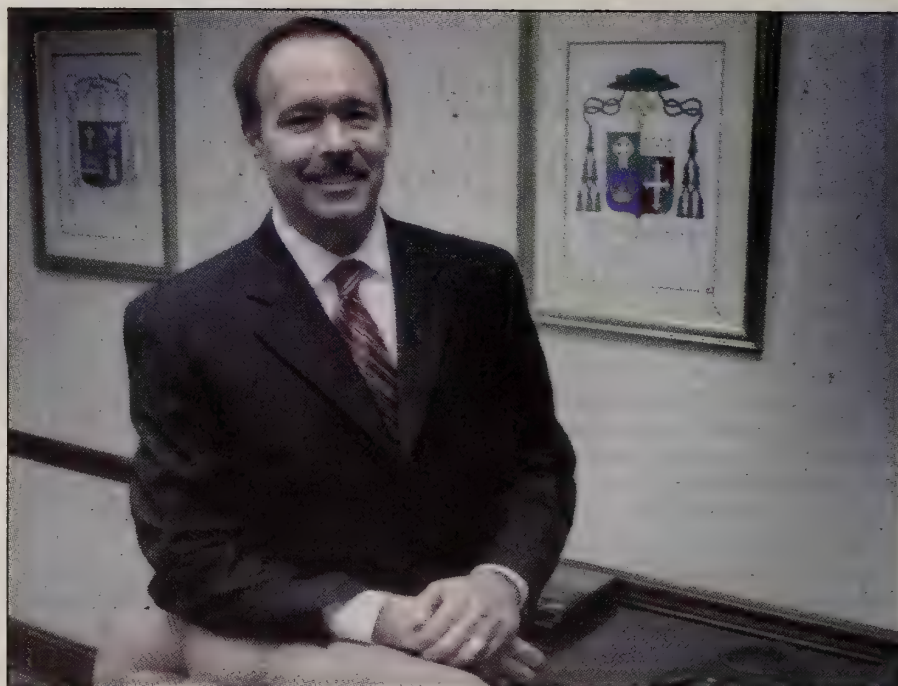


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

William Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, was a recent finalist for Charlotte Business Journal's 2009 CFO of the Year Award. He is pictured at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Aug. 13.

Diocesan CFO earns top honor among peers

WELDON, from page 1

Journal's 2009 CFO of the Year Award.

The award recognizes financial management skills, strategic thinking and a demonstrated commitment to fiscal integrity and accountability.

Weldon was nominated for the category of large nonprofit organization.

As CFO for the Diocese of Charlotte, Weldon oversees all of the financial aspects of the diocese including the 92 churches, 18 schools, three foundations, social service offices, news publishing, real estate development and affordable housing — totaling a combined 2008 budget of \$130 million.

"Serving as CFO for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is both rewarding and challenging," said Weldon during an interview with Charlotte Business Journal.

"The position allows me to serve my church through my chosen profession, for which I am very grateful," he said.

Weldon has been with the diocese for the past 16 years. During his tenure he has strived to increase the transparency of financial reporting within the 46-

county diocese.

"The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to maintaining the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability," Weldon said.

"My goal is to support the work of the many dedicated clergy and other professionals by strengthening the financial base of the organization," he said. "This is accomplished by building the trust and confidence of our constituents through proper stewardship of our fiscal resources and complete financial accountability."

In 2006, Weldon was appointed chairperson of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Accounting Practices Committee, a position for which he was nominated by his peers. He is currently serving a three-year term.

"I am very honored to have been nominated for this award. I am also very thankful to Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Msgr. Mauricio West (diocesan vicar general and chancellor) for the opportunity to serve as diocesan CFO, and to my colleagues in the finance office for their dedication and support," said Weldon.

Contact Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

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Recent findings make scientific case for shroud

SHROUD, from page 1

on the mystery behind the shroud.

Why is it important for Catholics to be aware of the science behind this mysterious cloth?

"Because contained within the shroud is the compelling story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection," Iannone said. "It tells a story in the science."

According to tradition, the 14-foot-by-4-foot linen cloth is the burial shroud of Jesus.

The shroud has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back, bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in his passion and death.

The church has never officially ruled on the shroud's authenticity, saying judgments about its age and origin belonged to scientific investigation. Scientists have debated its authenticity for decades, and studies have led to conflicting results.

Crafting a case

Iannone began studying the shroud in 1978.

In 1998 he was invited by Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, then papal custodian of the shroud, to attend a 3-day shroud scientific and historical congress in Turin, Italy.

During the conference he had the opportunity to observe the shroud firsthand for several hours, an experience Iannone called "a defining moment" in his life.

In his presentation in Charlotte, Iannone offered detailed scientific evidence to support his case for the shroud's authenticity.

Forensics and faith

He began with the physical element of the cloth itself, which is consistent in size and composition with ancient Jewish burial customs.

He talked about the image on the shroud and how it was most likely created.

It is clearly not a painting, according to Iannone, as there are no signs of paint in the fabric. The images are scorch-like, yet not created by heat.

Iannone said that some physicists have indicated the image was likely formed from light — that is, light radiating from the body.

Iannone also talked about the consistency between the words of the New Testament regarding the passion and the wounds depicted on the shroud — wounds that are consistent with the weapons used by ancient Roman soldiers in crucifixion.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

John Iannone presents a case for the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin during a talk at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte July 29.

He mentioned the blood on the shroud, which has been tested and determined to be human male of the type AB — the rarest blood type with the highest percentage being found in northern Palestine.

He described the study of pollen grains and imprints on the shroud, as being representative of plants that are indigenous to the Holy Land.

Discrediting doubt

Even with such compelling evidence there is still uncertainty surrounding the authenticity of the shroud, much of which stems from the results of a 1988 carbon-14 dating test.

"The 1988 headlines made my stomach churn," said Iannone, recalling the day that the results came out debunking the authenticity of the shroud.

Results of the test dated the composition of the cloth to the medieval period.

Recent studies, however, have refuted the results of the carbon-14 test on the basis that the sample cut from the shroud in 1988 was taken from an area of the cloth that was re-woven during the Middle Ages.

The sample was taken from a patch that was sewn into the shroud to repair a hole caused by a fire in 1532.

Today's take

Pope Benedict XVI confirmed his intention to visit the Shroud of Turin when it goes on public display in Turin's cathedral April 10-May 23, 2010.

The last time the Shroud of Turin was displayed to the public was in 2000 for the jubilee year.

The shroud is removed from a specially designed protective case only



CNS PHOTO BY CLAUDIO PAPI, REUTERS

The Shroud of Turin is shown in this positive (left) and negative combo undated file photo. Pope Benedict XVI announced June 2, 2008 that the shroud will be displayed to the public for the first time in a decade in 2010.

for very special spiritual occasions — typically once every 25 years — and its removal for study or display to the public must be approved by the pope.

So why is the shroud going on display now?

"I think it's because all of the new studies have demonstrated that the carbon-14 tests of 1988 were not

accurate," Iannone said. "We've got to restore the credibility that was destroyed" back then.

"If you accept the fact that it is authentic, then it tells a story," he said.

"It is a compelling re-examination of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection."

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Shroud of Turin, visit Iannone's Web site at www.northstarproductions.org/Shroud_Info.html

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

An example for us all

St. John Vianney and the Year for Priests

The patron saint of my parish is St. John Vianney.

This year the whole Catholic world is becoming familiar with him because Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year for Priests under the patronage of St. John Vianney.

Jean-Marie Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests.

He was the pastor of the little town of Ars, France (near Lyon), in the turbulent era following the French Revolution. He is known as the Cure of Ars since as a pastor he had the "cure" or "care" of souls.

He died 150 years ago. Aug. 4, 1859, is his "dies natalis," the day of his birth into everlasting life.

Before I came to my parish, I didn't know much about St. John Vianney. And what I did know did not seem very appealing. He seemed like one of those plastic saints, a little unreal, even a little ditz.

I never liked the stories about him eating rotten potatoes or spending 18 hours a day in the confessional. I just didn't believe it or think it sounded healthy, spiritually or physically.

Pope Benedict has noted that sometimes the biographers of the saint were given to "pious excess."

I never heard St. John Vianney even mentioned in my seminary years in Rome, even though we were supposed to be training to be like him, parish priests.

It was not until I came to this parish named for him that I began to learn about his life. People gave me books about him and collections of his sermons.

His sermons struck me as severe, mostly admonishing the sinner and condemning sin. John Vianney did not approve of dancing or playing cards.

But gradually, I have come to admire St. John Vianney.

Ironically, the man who is now the model and measure of parish priests almost did not get ordained himself. He was, to be blunt, not the brightest bulb in the chandelier.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



He was sent to Ars, a town of only 230 souls. Few of them went to church. The bishop is reported to have said that at least John Vianney could do no damage in Ars.

He stayed in that little parish for 42 years, the rest of his life. There he fell in love with the people of his parish. Eventually they fell in love with him.

They could see that he cared about them. He also cared about being a priest. He had reverence for what he was and what he did.

His greatest love was celebrating the liturgy. "All good workstakentogther," he wrote, "do not equal the sacrifice of the Mass."

He loved hearing confessions, because he loved the people who came to him. He cared about their souls and their happiness. He wanted them to be free of the burden of sin.

Near the end of his life, John Vianney's reputation as a confessor was so great that people came from all over France just to confess their sins to him. He was famous as a holy man. The French government awarded him its highest honor, the Legion of Honor.

His most eloquent sermon was his life. Pope Benedict has said of him,

"St. John Vianney taught his parishioners primarily by the witness of his life."

In that sense he is a very real and modern saint. Today we put more faith in lived example than in words of holiness.

St. John Vianney was a saint who "walked the walk" more than "talked the talk."

In that regard, he is an example for us all.



CNS PHOTO BY CROSIERS

St. John Vianney, pictured in a stained-glass window, is widely known to Catholics as the Cure d'Ars who won over the hearts of his villagers in France by visiting with them, teaching them about God and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional. His feast day is Aug. 1.

The principal force behind human development

A short summary of 'Caritas in Veritate'

When I read that Pope Benedict XVI presented President Barack Obama with a personal copy of his latest encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," I said to myself, "Good luck, Mr. President, you've got some heavy reading ahead."

Then I wondered whether a one-page summary would help. This is what I offer here.

"Charity in truth" means truth-filled love. This is the "principal driving force" behind human development, says the pope.

Love is the force that leads people "to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace."

Truth, according to this encyclical, is conformity with "God's plan." In God's plan, humans find truth. Charity "is at the heart of the church's social doctrine."

Charity in truth "is the principle around which the church's social doctrine turns."

The church's social doctrine has a lot to say about justice and the common good; these are the criteria that govern moral action in an increasingly globalized society. Justice "is inseparable from charity."

On this point Pope Benedict reaffirms Pope Paul VI's conviction that "justice is love's absolute minimum."

The common good, says Benedict, is "a good that is linked to living in society." It is the good of all of us.

He writes: "The church does not have technical solutions to offer" and does not want "to interfere in any way with the politics of states," but does have a mission to proclaim the truth, an important dimension of which is its social doctrine.

It would be a major mistake "to entrust the entire process of development to technology." All of us are "called" by God to work for human development.

"The truth of development consists in its completeness: If it does not involve the whole man and every man, it is not true development."

"The church had good reason to be concerned about the capacity of a purely technological society to set realistic goals" in the context of today's worldwide economic crisis.

Our world "needs to rediscover fundamental values on which to build a better future." Worthy of rediscovery

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



are the fundamental values of justice and truth-filled love.

In economic matters, "once profit becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty."

Workers' rights are in need of protection. Food insecurity needs to be addressed. The goal of "access to steady employment for everyone" is a major priority.

"One of the most striking aspects of development in the present day is the important question of respect for life. ... Openness to life is at the center of true development. ... Violence puts the brakes on authentic development."

"The economy needs ethics in order to function correctly — not any ethics whatsoever but an ethics which is people-centered. ... Efforts are needed — and it is essential to say this — not only to create 'ethical' sectors or segments of the economy or the world of finance, but to ensure that the whole economy — the whole of finance — is ethical, not merely by virtue of an external label but by its respect for requirements intrinsic to its very nature. The church's social teaching is quite clear on the subject."

"Caritas in Veritate" is the latest in a long line of papal social encyclicals dating back to Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum" in 1891. They tend to be lengthy and dense, which is another way of saying difficult to read.

But they are worth reading because they convey the principles, which, if implemented, go a long way toward preparing the way for the coming of the promised kingdom of justice, love and peace.

"Now, was that at all helpful, Mr. President?"

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

One mystical body

Sacrifice of the Mass is act of love more intimate than any human union

In the liturgy of the church, only one person prays; namely, Jesus Christ.

At every Mass, he and the members of his mystical body are able to enter the inner chamber of divine love. United to him, we become the adopted children of the Father.

Understood properly, the sacrifice of the Mass is an act of love more intimate than human intercourse. Gaining access to God the Father in this way is only possible through the mediation of Jesus Christ.

St. Augustine articulated the mystery of our longing for God when he wrote: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord."

Nostalgia for paradise resides in the heart of every human being, saints and sinners alike.

As we try to reach out to our maker, we usually experience frustration and disappointment. We do not feel God's embrace, and this is upsetting.

But our longing for God is an essential part of the human condition.

Did you ever stop to think that this yearning is a gift? God wants you to feel empty, and he gives you his Son to help you find your way home.

Jesus announces himself as the

privileged channel of communication for everyone who is searching for union with the Father: "No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6).

He also said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

The church teaches us that the sacrifice of the Mass is an event involving intimate union with God. The doctrine of the Trinity tells us God is a furnace of love made up of three persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — eternally loving one another.

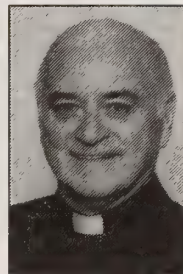
To enter the love that passes between the three requires a supernatural passport. You become one with the second person, Jesus Christ, and become covered with his holiness.

The relationship between Jesus and his Father is unique and personal. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus is always offering himself to the Father. The marvel of it is that he allows us to participate in this supernatural act of love: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5).

United to his self-offering, we are no longer isolated human beings. With him we have become one mystical body. This is why Jesus taught us to address God as

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



"our Father," not "my Father."

The Mass is more than a church ritual; it is an act of love in the fullest sense. Our faith enables us to rise above our petty fears of inadequacy and unworthiness.

No one is worthy. We have been chosen in spite of our unworthiness. We are no longer poor, helpless creatures. Miraculously we have become lovers of our Father in heaven.

As we enter this profound mystery, we are humbly grateful. We no longer see the sacrifice of the Mass as an irksome obligation. Our feelings of unworthiness dissolve.

The charisma of the priest, or the lack of it, becomes irrelevant. All that matters is that we are one with Jesus in an act of love.

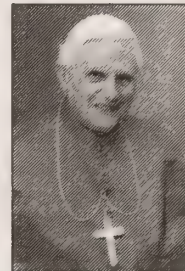
Jesus alone has access to the sacred presence of the Father. In him, with him and through him we enjoy the mystery of divine love.

Even if you feel nothing, be assured that you are a privileged guest in God's home. Learn to live by faith, not feelings. Rejoice and be glad.

God awaits people willing to bring Christ into the world, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Respecting human freedom, God waits for Christians, especially priests, to say "yes" to his desire to bring Christ to the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Aug. 12, the pope continued his new series of talks about the Year for Priests and connected the topic to the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 15. Some 4,000 people gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo and in the square outside the villa to participate in the audience.

Pope Benedict said there is a special connection between priests and Mary that comes from the mystery of the Incarnation.

Pope Benedict also said that before dying Jesus saw his mother and his "beloved disciple" at the foot of the cross.

Mary's special relationship with priests is based on the fact that they are similar to Jesus in giving their lives for the salvation of others and because, like Mary, "they are committed to the mission of proclaiming, witnessing to and giving Christ to the world," Pope Benedict said. Entrusting his mother to his disciples, Jesus gave all of them — but especially priests — the person who was most precious to him, the pope said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

I offer a warm welcome to the English-speaking visitors present at today's audience, including the Sisters of St. Anne, the altar servers from Malta and the pilgrims from Australia and the United States of America.

As the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin draws near in this year of the priest, my catechesis today is centered on Mary the mother of priests. She looks upon them with special affection as her sons.

Indeed, their mission is similar to hers; priests are called to bring forth Christ's saving love into the world.

On the cross, Jesus invites all believers, especially his closest disciples, to love and venerate Mary as their mother. Let us pray that all priests will make a special place for the Blessed Virgin in their lives, and seek her assistance daily as they bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus.

Upon you and your families I invoke God's blessings of joy and peace.

Looking to a higher law

Focus should be to convince society to recognize laws in heart, not on books

The International Theological Commission, a prestigious Vatican group, released a document earlier this month on the natural law and ethical values common to all people.

The commission members are appointed by the pope and serve in an advisory role to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"In Search of a Universal Ethics: A New Look at Natural Law" received slight attention in this country, perhaps due to the fact the Vatican has so far published it only in French and Italian.

Cindy Wooden of the Catholic News Service Rome bureau wrote an extensive article reporting that the commission said ethical concerns are increasingly important in a global world, with terrorism, the environment and biotechnology being international concerns with international repercussions.

Traditional church teaching is that the natural law is impressed on the consciences of all by God and can be discovered by the use of human reason.

Both emphasis on personal freedom and perceiving ethics to be cultural or religiously specific has worked against the belief that the natural law is natural and accessible to all, the commission said.

The document touched on one point

that resonates particularly at this time in the United States.

The commission said that relying on legislated laws, rather than the natural law, "opens the way to the arbitrariness of power, the dictatorship of the numerical majority and to ideological manipulation to the detriment of the common good."

That which the majority can vote in it can vote out.

Consider this: What are we seeking in terms of abortion in this country?

If the goal is to have abortions not happen, then is civil law the best tactic?

If the Supreme Court should totally overturn Roe v. Wade and similar decisions, states once again would be able to legislate the legality of abortion. Some states would ban it, others would not. Legislation would be challenged in the courts interminably.

Chances are slim that Congress will ban abortion, even if so permitted by the courts.

But instead, what if Congress passed a formal statement strongly approving the right to life as a policy of the United States and stating equally strong disapproval of abortion, euthanasia and other attacks on life?

It would be a strongly worded statement, one that would not deal with

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



illegality or penalty.

The commission said the case for universal moral values has been weakened by the view that the natural law is do's and don'ts rather than principles for the protection of human dignity and promotion of the common good.

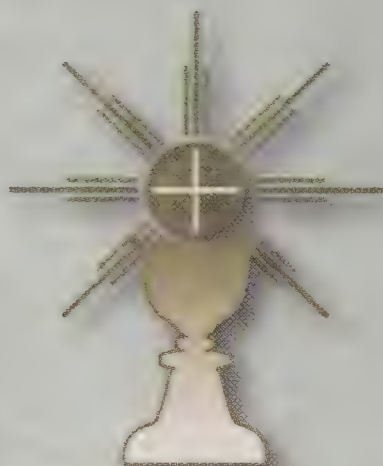
Natural law is not a Catholic thing, although the church has been among its strongest proponents through the centuries.

Given a statement of national policy, then should we not direct our efforts to advocacy and defense of the natural law and all that it means?

The goal would be to make it so obvious that violations of the right to life wouldn't be attempted.

The ultimate goal is not to pass a law. We already have a law — the natural law. The dignity and protection it provides is far above that which can be affected by legislation.

The focus should be to model proper behavior and convince society at the higher level of principle to recognize laws in the heart, not on the books.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

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Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

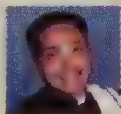
• Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



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"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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Perspectives

The power of making a
stand; love is the most
powerful tool for change

| PAGES 14-15

AUGUST 28, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 36

'We are called to be on fire ...'

*Revival celebrates,
rejuvenates faith of
African-American
Catholics in diocese*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — African-American Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered recently for a four-day celebration of culture and Catholicism.

The Revival of the Spirit, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, took place at four parishes throughout the diocese Aug. 13-16 and featured a dynamic speaker who challenged participants to reinvigorate their faith.

Revivals, similar to parish missions, have become customary within the African-

See REVIVAL, page 8

A church to call home with room to grow



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priests and faithful pray while Bishop Peter J. Jugis chants the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer during the dedication Mass of St. Mark Church in Huntersville Aug. 23. The 26,000-square-foot church has seating for 1,500 people.

*North Mecklenburg
Catholics celebrate
long-awaited
completion of
St. Mark Church*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — In 1997, 250 families gathered to celebrate the first Mass of St. Mark Church at a bowling alley in Huntersville. Twelve years later the church has grown to 4,050 families.

From the beginning it was clear that a large church would be needed to accommodate the growing number of Catholics in north Mecklenburg County.

On Aug. 23, Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the long-awaited dedication of the new church building — a 26,000-square-foot church with seating

See CHURCH, page 9

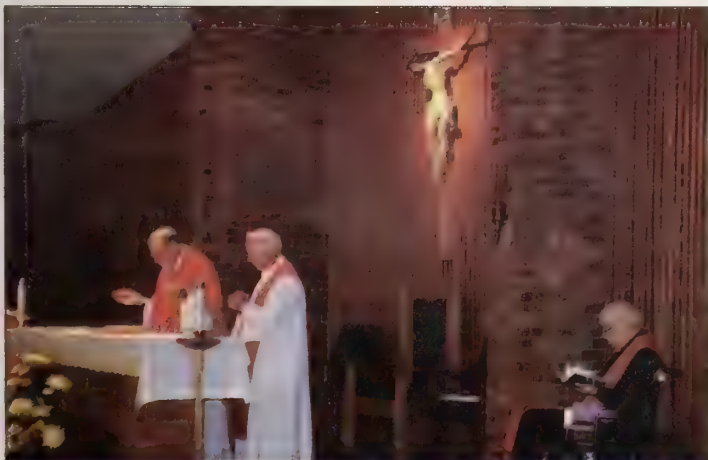


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Retired diocesan priests (from left) Fathers Joseph Waters, James Solari and Conrad Kimbrough celebrate Mass in the chapel at Pennybyrn at Maryfield, a Catholic retirement community in High Point June 5.

'A priest forever'

*Upcoming collection helps both
retired and active priests in diocese*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — They have almost 140 years of priestly service among them.

Now as residents of a Catholic retirement living community in High Point, three retired priests continue to serve the people of God in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Fathers Joseph Waters, Conrad Kimbrough and James Solari are three of 25 retired priests within the diocese who exemplify what it means to be "a priest forever," this year's theme for the diocesan Priests' Retirement & Benefits Collection.

See RETIRE, page 5

Back to school



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A Catholic school bus is pictured in the reflection of its side-view mirror in the parking lot of the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Aug. 24. Students have returned to classes in the 18 diocesan schools.

FOR MORE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 12.

Seniors and spirituality

*Day of Reflection offers ways
to deepen faith*

| PAGE 7

Culture Watch

*Book on religious life history;
radio program wins awards*

| PAGES 10-11

**27 days until the
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

REMEMBERING A LEADER



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony and U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy address a Capitol Hill press conference on immigration in Washington March 6, 2007. Kennedy, who died at his Cape Cod, Mass., home late Aug. 25, was a major figure in the Democratic Party and took the helm of one of America's most famed Catholic political families after two older brothers were assassinated. He was 77.

Ted Kennedy, longtime senator, patriarch of famous family, dies at 77

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who died late Aug. 25 at the age of 77, stood firmly on the side of the Catholic Church on a wide range of issues from immigration reform to the minimum wage during his 47 years as a U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

But the youngest son of one of the nation's most famous Catholic families ran into criticism from leaders of the U.S. Catholic Church for his stand on abortion. He opposed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, supported Roe v. Wade and was a chief sponsor of legislation to limit protests outside abortion clinics and to permit the use of federal funds for research projects using fetal tissue.

Kennedy had served in the U.S. Senate since he was first elected in 1962 to fill his brother John's unexpired term after he became president.

As the second-most senior member of the U.S. Senate, Kennedy joined with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., in a bipartisan effort for immigration reform, which the Catholic Church backed but which was ultimately unsuccessful.

In earlier years, he championed a national health insurance plan that church leaders supported, except for its inclusion of abortion as a covered health service.

Kennedy also served as a co-sponsor and/or co-author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and legislation raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour.

In the 111th Congress he was chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and ranking member of several committees and subcommittees.

He was a vocal opponent of both the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq and a strong supporter of the civil rights movement, increased federal funding of public schools and early education programs such as Head Start, universal health coverage, the rights of workers to organize and to earn a living wage, and immigration reform that would lead toward citizenship.

On most of those issues Kennedy's stance was on the same side as Catholic leaders, but on abortion they diverged sharply. He did not begin his Senate career as an abortion supporter, however, according to a 1971 letter that surfaced many years later.

"While the deep concern of a woman bearing an unwanted child merits consideration and sympathy, it is my personal feeling that the legalization of abortion on demand is not in accordance with the value which our civilization places on human life," Kennedy wrote a year and a half before Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that lifted most state restrictions on abortion.

In recent years, however, Kennedy earned a nearly 100 percent negative rating from the National Right to Life Committee and a 100 percent positive rating from NARAL Pro-Choice America for his abortion-related votes in the Senate.

USCCB launches missal translation Web site

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Web site launched Aug. 21 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was produced to educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal, the book of prayers used for Mass.

The site, www.usccb.org/romanmissal, has background material on the process of development of liturgical texts, sample texts from the missal, a glossary of terms and answers to frequently asked questions.

Content will be added regularly over the next several months, according to an Aug. 21 news release from the USCCB.

The bishops' Committee on Divine Worship hopes the site will be a central resource for those preparing to implement the new text, the release said.

In the years since the Second Vatican Council, "we have learned a lot about the use of the vernacular in the liturgy

and the new texts reflect this new understanding," said the committee's chairman, Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., in a video that welcomes visitors to the site.

"The new texts are understandable, dignified and accurate," he said. "They not only strive to make the meaning of the text accessible for the listener, but they also strive to unearth the biblical and theological richness of the Latin text."

After more than five years of consultation, study and reflection, the U.S. bishops are expected to conclude their review and approval of the final portion of the translated texts at the end of this year. Final approval, or "recognitio," of the text from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments will be the last step before the publication of the texts for use in the liturgy.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Catholic Daughters of the Americas is seeking Catholic women ages 18 and up to join the organization. The Catholic Daughters were founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus and now have more than 95,000 members worldwide. Courts in the Diocese of Charlotte are located in Charlotte, Asheville, Statesville, Salisbury, Greensboro and Sylva. Membership is open to all Catholic women. For more information, contact Essie Walker at (704) 577-7436.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All adults are invited to attend the *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere, Aug. 29 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center gym. There is no charge to attend this event.

CHARLOTTE — *The Gospel According to St. John*, a 12-week seminar stressing the divinity of Christ, will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Sundays beginning Sept. 13 from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the activity center. This seminar aims to create in attendees

an interest in and a love for Scripture in order to foster spiritual growth. For more information, call (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — There will be an inquiry meeting for those interested in joining a *Dominican Laity Group* (Third Order of St. Dominic) Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. in Room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The group is open to all who are in conformity with the teaching of the magisterium and who are seeking the Dominican spiritual life. For more information, call Mary Snow at (704) 847-4405 or e-mail info@charlottelaidominicans.org, or visit the Web site at www.charlottelaidominicans.org.

CHARLOTTE — A new support group for unemployed parishioners has started at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. The meetings will be held on Mondays at 10 a.m. in Aquinas Hall. For more information, call Brother Doug Soik in the parish office at (704) 549-1607 or e-mail him at dsolik@stacharlotte.com.

CHARLOTTE — "Come and See," an informational social to answer questions regarding the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), will be held in the Parish Hall at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, we would love to help you on your faith journey. Classes will be held the second week of September through the first week of October on Sundays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Polce at (704) 545-7580 or kmppjn@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life presents *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. The Real Life series will take place once a month from August through November at Harper's Restaurant, 11059 Carolina Place Pkwy. Come and mingle at 6:30 p.m., speaker will start around 7 p.m. The next session will be Sept. 17 on the topic "Finding Meaning in Your Work" presented by Deacon Mark King. For event details, visit www.meetup.com/youngadultlife

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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AUGUST 28, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 36

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican, bishops urge respect, help for migrants

There is human right to be helped, rescued, says archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prompted by a sea tragedy involving the apparent deaths of dozens of Eritreans trying to reach Italy in a rubber raft, the Vatican and the Italian bishops urged authorities to guarantee rescue, medical help and respect to migrants in trouble.

On Aug. 20, Italian maritime border police rescued five Eritreans off the Sicilian island of Lampedusa. The survivors recounted that more than 70 others had died of hunger and thirst during a three-week voyage from Libya, and said that no passing vessels had stopped to save them, although some fishermen had given them some food.

Archbishop Antonio Maria Veglio, president of the Pontifical Council

for Migrants and Travelers, said in an interview with Vatican Radio Aug. 23 that such tragedies call for a "strong and farsighted policy of international cooperation."

He said that while governments have the legitimate right to regulate immigration, "there is nevertheless the human right to be rescued and given emergency help."

He said this right is even more necessary in extreme situations, "such as being adrift in the middle of the sea."

Archbishop Veglio referred to the recent encyclical by Pope Benedict XVI, "Charity in Truth," which says that "every migrant is a human person" who "possesses inalienable fundamental rights."

Vatican economist emphasizes Christians' business ethics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current global economic crisis shows that capitalism without ethical grounding doesn't work, and Christians should keep this in mind whether they are business people, policymakers or simply consumers, a top Vatican economist said.

Thomas Han Hong-soon of the Vatican Prefecture for Economic Affairs said that "the root of this crisis is a moral deficit" and that when it comes to business, Christians have not always followed the principles of charity and justice found in the Gospel.

"Let's start by honestly recognizing that the spirit of capitalism doesn't agree with that of the Gospel. The heart of Christianity is love for others. The nucleus of capitalism, rather, is competition, which is the opposite of love," Han told the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano Aug. 22.

A radical overhaul of the capitalistic system is not very realistic, he said, considering that alternatives, such as communism, have not worked out historically. But better rules for governing the free market are needed, he said.

"It's clear that as Christians we can't only pursue the notion of the highest profit at the lowest possible cost," he said.

"What is sometimes lacking is the awareness of a 'social responsibility' of their business. No business is an island," he said.

Those who don't remember that are destined to fail," he said, recalling Pope Benedict XVI's recent encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), that called for justice and equality in the world economy. This is true not only for single businesses, but for a whole system that involves shareholders, banks, workers and consumers, he said.

or e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sign ups will be in the narthex the weekends of Sept. 5-6 and Sept. 12-13. Walk-ins will be accepted as time permits.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and Scripture study in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group began a 6-week program Aug. 25 on the book of Daniel in conjunction with the first and second book of Maccabees. The program will review the history of Israel in the centuries before the Lord's coming. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 3 in the main room of the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, contact Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

GREENSBORO — *Elizabeth Ministry* is available to support parents carrying to term following the diagnosis of a fetal defect. The primary focus is to connect parents with others who have continued a pregnancy following a poor prenatal diagnosis. Specialized resource materials and assistance are provided including referrals to community services. Parents of all religions are served. For more information, contact Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 or e-mail elizabethministry@roadrunner.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — Attention all Cursillistas! The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park/Campgrounds in Morganton, 7081 NC Hwy. 181 N., Sept. 19. The Grand Ultreya begins at 11:30 a.m. with Mass at 12 p.m. Lunch follows. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink; Cursillo will provide hamburgers/hotdogs. Other events include guitar music, group

reunion, spiritual talks and hiking/nature trails for children. The event ends at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Fabrice at mfabrice@aol.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, an organization comprised of Catholic men of Irish birth or descent, will be forming a new division in the Salisbury area. If you are 16 years or older and are proud of your Irish heritage and are interested in your Catholic faith and Irish culture, contact Joe Dougherty, NC State AOH organizer, at (704) 942-6345 or e-mail uniteire@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans of the Fraternity of St. Clare is sponsoring a *blessing of the animals* Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd. All caged or leashed pets welcome. For more information, call Anne Modrow at (336) 760-1938.

CLEMMONS — *Eucharistic adoration* takes place every Thursday in the Curlin Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Carole at pinmoney@bellsouth.net.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 3 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Sept. 5 (1 p.m.)
Blessing of cemetery
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

Episcopal calendar

Sept. 1 (10 a.m.)
Mass for blessing of Sacred Heart School
Salisbury

Sept. 2 (7 p.m.)
Pastor installation of
Salesian Father Paul Dechant
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

Mourning in Myongdong



CNS PHOTO BY LEE JAE-WON, REUTERS

South Korean Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul speaks at a funeral Mass for former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung at the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul Aug. 22. Kim, the first Catholic president of South Korea, died Aug. 18 at age 85.

South Korea's first Catholic president was model Christian

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung will be remembered as a model Christian, Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul said during his funeral Mass at Myongdong Cathedral.

The Asian church news agency UCA News reported that Cardinal Cheong praised the first Korean Nobel laureate, who won the peace prize in 2000 for his efforts to reach out to communist North Korea.

"He was a political leader who defined an epoch in Korean history and was an elder for all Koreans," Cardinal Cheong said, describing Kim as a champion of human rights, democratization and peace on the Korean peninsula.

Cardinal Cheong urged Koreans to

follow Kim's example and heal divisions in society.

Kim — South Korea's first Catholic president, whose baptismal name was Thomas More — died Aug. 18 at the age of 85.

Following Kim's death, Pope Benedict XVI sent a condolence message to President Lee Myung-bak through the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

"Pope Benedict XVI commends the late president's soul to the mercy and love of almighty God and, upon all the Korean people who mourn his passing, he cordially invokes the divine blessing of peace and strength," Cardinal Bertone wrote.

Weaving warmth and comfort



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Blanketeers of Holy Spirit Church in Denver are pictured with some of their work during their quarterly workshop Aug. 15. Members sew approximately 500 comfort blankets per year for Project Linus, an international nonprofit organization that provides blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need; for patients of Gaston Memorial Hospital and for fellow parishioners in need.

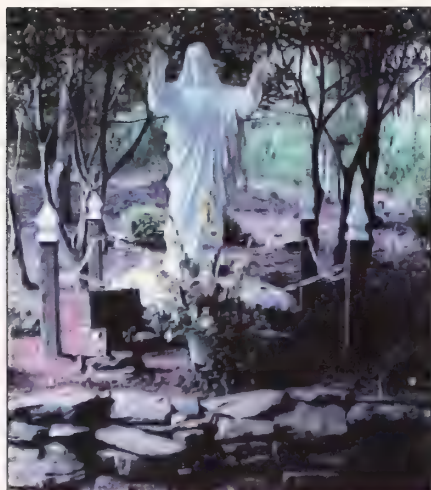
Honoring priests



COURTESY PHOTO

Father James Solari (third from right) was the principal celebrant of a Mass in honor of the Year for Priests held at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point Aug. 4, the feast of St. John Vianney. Pennybyrn is a retirement community sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. Pictured are (from left) Poor Servant Sister Mona Comiskey; Deacon Ron Steinkemp of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro; Poor Servant Sister Lucy Hennessy; Father Joe Waters, Father Solari and Father Conrad Kimbrough, retired priests; and Poor Servant Sister Loretta O'Connor.

A place of prayer



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is a statue of Jesus in the new parish prayer garden blessed and dedicated by Father Joseph Dinh, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson Aug. 16. Nearly 100 people from the parish and its mission, St. Frances of Rome in Sparta, attended the dedication of the prayer garden built by parishioners and featuring a path with Stations of the Cross and benches.

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~ Roy and Dot Culler, Pennybyrn residents since 2008. ~



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FROM THE COVER

Collection helps both retired and active priests in diocese

RETIRE, from page 1

The three priests are residents of Pennybyrn at Maryfield, a full-service retirement community founded 61 years ago by the religious sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

For Father Kimbrough, living at Pennybyrn has significance dating back to his youth. He visited High Point in 1947 when he was an Episcopal college student.

It was a predominately Protestant area back then and the sisters had just founded Maryfield.

He was curious when he first saw the sisters in their habits.

"Little did I know what would happen in the future," he said.

"When I came here I thought, 'I'm giving it all up now,'" joked Father Kimbrough about his retirement.

But that certainly wasn't the case. Even in retirement, each of the priests continues to serve an instrumental role within the Catholic community, both at Maryfield and at nearby parishes.

For Father Waters and Father Kimbrough, who live in the assisted living phase of the community, their service includes hearing confessions and celebrating daily Mass at the Maryfield chapel.

"Sometimes they call me out to offer Mass in Spanish at different parishes," said Father Waters, who was one of the first priests in the diocese to minister to Hispanic Catholics.

In terms of retirement, Father Solari is hoping that the fourth time will be a charm. He originally retired in 2000, but has been subsequently pulled out of retirement to serve at parishes in Statesville, Greensboro and Gastonia.

"We had need at the time," he said, "I was happy to be able to do it."

In March 2008, Father Solari moved to Maryfield where he serves as



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

An accomplished artist, Father James Solari, shows one of his drawings to Edward Cordick, development and public relations leader for Pennybyrn at Maryfield, and Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

part-time chaplain.

In that role, he celebrates Mass every Wednesday morning, along with a vigil Mass on Saturday evening and a Sunday morning Mass. He performs quarterly anointings of the sick and is on call to respond to emergencies.

Being in a retirement community provides an "opportunity to see a lot of dear people who are hampered by Mother Nature's problems," said Father Solari.

"It's nice to personally interact with them," he said.

His take on retirement: "It doesn't

mean you sit around and do nothing. You can be as active as you choose. There is more freedom to enjoy things that you didn't have time for when you were full-time."

He enjoys playing bridge with other residents once a week and painting in an art studio in his apartment.

He also helps out at nearby parishes.

One of the things Father Solari doesn't miss about being a pastor is the paperwork.

"There was always a great deal of administrative pressure," he said. "All of that is no longer on my shoulders."

Without the pressure of pastoral duties, Father Solari has been able to grow deeper in his faith.

"I can celebrate the sacraments with greater joy," said Father Solari.

And as far as being "a priest forever," he said, "That is what we committed to at ordination — that we would continue to serve the Lord."

THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT & BENEFITS COLLECTION IS A WAY TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF THE 25 RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS

Your contribution also helps provide for the future retirement of 80 diocesan priests who are currently involved in active ministry, as well as 26 priests representing eight different religious orders serving in The Diocese of Charlotte.

Each parish is assessed 3.5 percent of its annual offertory collection to raise the funds needed to support priests' retirement and benefits. In most parishes the assessment amounts to slightly less than two times the regular Sunday offertory.

Of the collection, \$618,850 is allocated to the retired diocesan priests' health plan and \$827,150 will be directed to pension contributions for the diocesan and religious priests' retirement plan.



Come to Celebrate and Learn

10th Anniversary Celebration
Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)
Friday Evening, October 23, 6 – 9 pm

&
4th Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia
Saturday, October 24, 9 am – 3:30 pm

A combined event, sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, on the theme:

Partnering Ecumenically for Social Action and Justice

Site for Friday evening's activities - St. William Church in Murphy, NC
Site for Saturday's activities - Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC

The Friday evening and Saturday event features four Plenary Speakers presented below in order of appearance in weekend schedule:

Rev. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

W. Joseph Mann, Director, Rural Church Division, The Duke Endowment

Rev. Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA

Rev. George M. Kloster, Pastor, St. William and IHM Catholic Churches

Go to www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for registration procedures and additional information, including Hinton Rural Life Center (HRLC) lodging opportunities. Since event meeting space is limited to 100 people, and lodging options at HRLC and area hotels during the autumn season are also limited, early registration is recommended.

Questions? Call 704-370-3225 or E-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.
Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

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Welcoming a Sister



COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Paule Benedict Barbeau (center) receives a blessing from Mercy Sister Carol Ann Wenning (left), incorporation minister, and Mercy Sister Kathy Green, president of the South Central Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, during a reception ceremony at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont in July. Sister Barbeau will enter the institute canonical novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy in Laredo, Texas, in August.

She was attracted to the Sisters of Mercy because of the charism and the opportunity to work with women and children. "This is an opportunity to deepen my faith and immerse myself in the Mercy tradition," she said.

Celebrating Columbiettes



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are (front, from left) Lori Lozano, vice president; Jessica Hughes, secretary; Father Tustin; Carol Pennington, president; and (back, from left) Muriel Peeling standing in for Martha Schafer, treasurer; Shannon Meyer, immediate past president; Mary Ann Albright, sentinel; and Fran Petticord, financial secretary.



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ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A NEWS STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a news story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors



SIX DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Tuesday, September 15 — St. Joseph, Kannapolis

Check-In: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Presenter: Fr. Kieran Neilson

Topic: Pope Benedict XVI's Encyclical "Saved by Hope"

Program: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$14 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Monday, September 7th

Thursday, October 8 — St. Luke, Mint Hill

Check-In: 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Presenter: Bishop Emeritus William Curlin

Topic: "The Jesus Who Lives in Us"

Program: 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$14 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, September 29th

Thursday, October 29 — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Check-In: 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Presenter: Fr. Brian Cook

Topic: "Autumn Grace — Growing Older...Growing Wiser"

Program: 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$14 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Monday, October 19th

Tuesday, November 10 — Queen of the Apostles, Belmont

Check-In: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Presenter: Deacon Matt Reilly

Topic: "I Made It...Now What?"

Program: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 3rd

Wednesday, November 18 — St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

Check-In: 9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow

Topic: Cure of Ars — St. John Marie Vianney, "The Priest Among Priests"

Program: 10:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$8 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Monday, November 9th

Tuesday, December 3 — St. James, Hamlet

Check-In: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Presenter: Sr. Ann Marie Wilson, R.S.M.

Topic: "Jesus...Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

Program: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$14 per person includes lunch

Deadline for Registration: Monday, November 23rd

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**

1123 S. Church St.

Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

Seasons, seniors and spirituality

Days of reflection offer opportunities to deepen faith

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — One's spiritual life changes and continues just like the seasons, said a speaker at an annual Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors.

Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry recently sponsored two Fall Days of Reflection for Seniors at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Aug. 20 and St. William Church in Murphy Aug. 27.

At both events, speakers shared how the participants could use their places in life as opportunities to deepen their faith.

More days are scheduled in the coming months.

In Brevard, Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, spoke on the "Seasons of Our Life."

The spiritual life, he said, parallels the seasons of the year.

"We go through stages, like nature. It is a continuous cycle," said Father Sheridan. "We should not think all

seasons are the same. Your relationship with God changes year by year and we need to be open to the changes in our spiritual growth."

After serving 46 years as a diocesan priest in various parishes throughout the state, Father Sheridan retired two years ago. But when the request came for him to return to the active role of parish priest, Father Sheridan accepted the opportunity.

He said he now finds himself at the beginning of another new season in his own life. As with all prior seasons, he said, this one will unfold in as yet unimaginable ways, and with faith he has responded to the call and looks forward to what lies ahead.

"When there is a need and if the community asks — or in my case, when the church asks — we should, if at all possible, respond positively," said Father Sheridan.

"Today presented an opportunity for a serious get-together about what our faith means to us as we go through



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Father Edward Sheridan (left), John and Edna Bell and Patrick Bohan speak during the Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Aug. 27.

life," said Patrick Bohan, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church.

Bohan also appreciated seeing Father Sheridan, who had served at that parish years prior.

"It was nice to have him here again. It's good to have people from neighboring parishes here," said Bohan. "It reminds us of the old hymn, 'All One Body We.'"

Elder Ministry provides leadership and guidance to parishes and their older adults within the Diocese of Charlotte, to enhance their well-being and to promote the development of programs to benefit them.

Annual events such as the Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors and the Spring

Fling provide opportunities for elders to gather from throughout the diocese.

"We are hoping to offer one-day reflections in each of the vicariates in the diocese," said Sandra Breakfield, diocesan Elder Ministry director. "The program allows seniors to come together, share their faith and grow in fellowship."

WANT MORE INFO?

For upcoming dates and locations for Fall Days of Reflection for Seniors, see the ad on page 6 or visit www.cssnc.org/elderministry_falldayofreflection.html or call (704) 370-3220.

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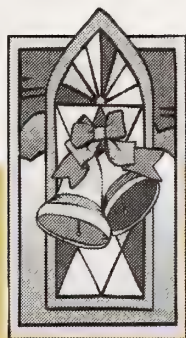
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INTRODUCTION CLASSES

Charlotte — St. Patrick Cathedral

September 5 — 6:45 pm

September 6 — 10:45 am and 1:45 pm

Concord — Northgate Family Medicine

September 16 — 7 pm

Salisbury — September 24 — 7 pm

CLASS SERIES

Greensboro — Our Lady of Grace Church

September 12 — 2 pm

October 10 — 2 pm

November 7 — 2 pm

Winston-Salem — St. Leo the Great Church

September 20 — 1:30 pm

October 18 — 1:30 pm

November 15 — 1:30 pm



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Revival celebrates, rejuvenates faith of African-American Catholics

REVIVAL, from page 1

American Catholic tradition as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and a time to build up the church community.

"The Revival of the Spirit is a once-a-year event that is intended to revive the spirit in all souls who come and receive the goodness of the Lord," said Sandy Murdock, diocesan ministry director.

The theme of this year's Revival of the Spirit was "Trouble Don't Last Always."

The message from guest revivalist Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt was simple: "No matter what hardships or dilemmas you are going through, God will see you through."

As Catholics, revivals "draw us to have more commitment to church service, evangelization and to understand the graces that come from the sacraments," said Father Nutt.

"I'm trying to help people deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ," he said.

The four-day event consisted of nightly revival sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at St. Mary Church in Greensboro, St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Our Lady of Consolation Church in

Charlotte, followed by a concluding Mass Sunday morning at St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain.

"It was, indeed, a joyous occasion to bring together so many people from different cultural, sociological, geographical and economical backgrounds — from infants to seniors, males and females," Murdock said.

"The Good News was being delivered by a Bible-fed, spirit-led preacher and the spirit could be felt moving throughout every service," she said.

Revival services included Scripture readings and Gospel music.

During his sermon at Our Lady of Consolation Church Aug. 15, Father Nutt addressed the issue of dealing with hardships.

"You can handle it," he told the audience. "No matter what comes your way, God would never give it to you unless he knows you can handle it."

"He gives you a test in order for you to have a testimony," said Father Nutt, whose dynamic preaching included standing on pews and running down the center aisle of the church.

"We are not called to be lukewarm," he said in an interview. "We are called to be on fire with the Gospel as we try to serve God and serve the church."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

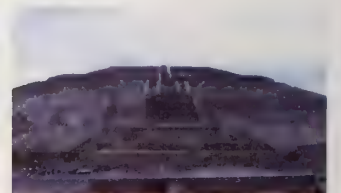
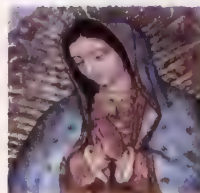
The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir leads the congregation in song during a revival service at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 15. The Revival of the Spirit, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, was held at four parishes throughout the diocese Aug. 13-16.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt, guest revivalist for the Revival of the Spirit, preaches during a service at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 15. Revivals have become customary within the African-American Catholic tradition as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and a time to build up the church community.

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- * **Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine** - special Mass, free time to reflect, explore and purchase spiritual keepsakes
- * Famous **Xochimilco** market experienced by a gondola ride through its canals
- * Historic **Puebla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site — a magnificent converted monastery is our hotel for 2 nights as we explore this picturesque valley in the mountains
- * Day trips to both architecturally-important **Taxco** (known also for beautiful silver creations) and **Cuernavaca**, with its history and beautiful gardens
- * Free time for relaxation, reflection and shopping!
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Catholics celebrate long-awaited completion of church

CHURCH, from page 1

for 1,500 people.

It has been a long journey from those days at the bowling alley — one that taught parishioners that a church foundation has little to do with mortar and concrete.

For years they were a roving parish. Masses were celebrated at a nearby Methodist church and then on the campus of Davidson College.

In 2000 they established a permanent home with the completion of the parish family center, a multipurpose building that would serve as the church for the next nine years. It was later named the Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin Family Center in honor of the parish's founding pastor.

Back in those days "Msgr. Kerin used to carry around the entire altar in a green Tupperware container," said Tony LaRocca, an original parishioner. "That's when I learned that we are the church, not the building."

"Just seeing the building gives you chills," said Barb Kearschner, another one of the original "holy rollers" from the bowling alley days. "It far exceeds my expectations."

"Finally having a place to worship, that is just for worship, will affect us greatly," said Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor.

Msgr. Bellow said he is excited about the new church and sees this as an opportunity for parishioners to focus on growth in other areas.

"My hope is that it will give the people a greater sense of ownership of their faith, a willingness to come here and be strengthened in their faith and share that faith with others," he said. "Now we can start building up

the spiritual community and being part of the spiritual growth of this area of Huntersville, Davidson and Cornelius."

Bishop Jugis also touched on the topic of the spiritual church in his homily during the dedication Mass.

"This dedication ceremony also reminds us that we have a mission to bring Christ to the world," said the bishop. "We have a mission which takes us far beyond the confines of this physical building."

Bishop Jugis celebrated the Mass along with concelebrants Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Kerin; Msgr. Bellow; Father Brandon Jones, parochial vicar; Father Patrick Hoare, pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte; and other clergy of the diocese.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin was in attendance and Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, served as master of ceremonies.

Deacons of St. Mark Church, Louis Pais, Robert Murphy and Ronald Sherwood, assisted.

The building itself is traditional in form and designed in the shape of a cross. The exterior includes a piazza with fountain, a bell tower and a covered walkway linking the family center to the church.

The piazza is paved with close to 1,000 engraved bricks, which were purchased by parishioners as part of a building fundraiser.

A future building phase may include stained glass in the church windows and equipping the sanctuary with audio-visual equipment, for which the building has been pre-wired.

One of the most noteworthy features is the altar, which came from St. Anthony on Hudson Seminary in Rensselaer, N.Y., where Msgr. Bellow studied as a seminarian.

When he learned that the building which housed the seminary was going to



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, assisted by Father Christopher Roux, burns incense on the altar of the new St. Mark Church in Huntersville. The incense signifies Christ's sacrifice, which will be offered on the altar. It also symbolizes the prayers of the people of God ascending to heaven.

be torn down, Msgr. Bellow asked if it would be possible to acquire some of the sanctuary furnishings.

A pulpit, celebrant chairs, a crucifix and candle holders all came from the seminary.

A small piece of slate was cut from the sanctuary floor at the seminary and will be sealed in the marble of the floor under the altar in the new church serving as a reminder of its origins.

Bishop Jugis anointed the new altar with chrism oil to signify its dedication to the celebration of the sacrifice of Christ.

In his homily, the bishop reminded the congregation that the mission of the parish is evangelization.

"Evangelization begins with the Eucharist, the source and the summit of the Christian life," Bishop Jugis said.

"From this place, we want Christ's message to go out to the whole world, so that all may become children of God and enter the kingdom of heaven."

The bishop closed his homily with a challenge for the congregation: "Please make me the promise that in the future, at every Mass on every Sunday, there will be overflowing crowds to fill this church."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmore@charlottediocese.org.

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE

For more photographs of the St. Mark Church dedication Mass, visit the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.



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Culture Watch

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Masterful history explores key time in development of religious life

REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Silvia Evangelisti, a lecturer in history at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, is a specialist in women's religious life of the early modern period, and in this masterful study she identifies and explains the impact of secular and ecclesiastical history on female monastic communities.

Her concise analysis of these broad issues is coupled with precise details that afford a glimpse into the richness of convent life.

"Nuns: A History of Convent Life" is a tapestry that succeeds in combining serious scholarship with a writing style that is accessible to the lay reader.

"Enclosure" was the most important defining factor of convent life in the period Evangelisti explores, 1450-1700, and appropriately it is the cohesive theme of this study.

Cloister was an early feature of monastic communities and especially stressed for women, who were "radically exhorted never to leave their convent and to practice full, unbroken enclosure."

These practices "relied on a long-standing Christian tradition that associated female chastity with the protection of a closed environment, whether this was a domestic one or a monastic one."

Enclosure "assumed a new relevance" at the Council of Trent in 1563, Evangelisti writes. Legislation extended enclosure "to all female religious, including tertiaries, who often lived uncloistered and performed care work in the service of the civic community, assisting the poor and the dying."

Evangelisti offers fascinating evidence of how some communities resisted the Tridentine reforms and details how enclosure altered both the physical space of convents and also the nuns' relationship with society.

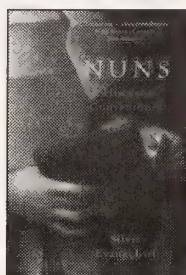
"Enclosure challenged the economic status of convents, representing a real practical problem for nuns' lives. The loss of direct contact with society led to a dramatic fall in all activities, economic as well as religious."

If enclosure is the central theme of this book, the paradox of religious life is its subtext.

"Silence was required by monastic regulation as it fostered contemplation and full dedication to God. It was therefore the natural condition for religious women whose main task was to pray and interact with God on behalf of all human beings."

"Precisely in these silent and cloistered environments, however, nuns found the means to write."

They also developed and performed elaborate theatrical and musical productions, another means to "create



palpable and impalpable links with the outside world. For the nuns these celebrations were a way of enhancing their symbolic presence in society."

The period that Evangelisti writes about also saw the emergence of the founding nun.

"There are numerous examples of very determined nuns leaving their convents and moving to other cities, and even other countries, in order to found new communities."

Nuns were "closely intertwined with the main political and religious developments of their time" and "convents were amongst the first institutions to be transplanted to the colonies."

The book's concluding chapter focuses on the active apostolate.

Although the church promoted the contemplative life, "from the late Middle Ages onward women practiced a range of different forms of religious life, including the more flexible option of joining a community but taking simple vows only."

This "socially oriented form of commitment" fostered "an active spirituality in direct contact with the world, rather than pure contemplation. They served God by praying as well as performing charitable service for the benefit of the most vulnerable members of society."

The identity of these communities was challenged by the Tridentine emphasis on enclosure, and Evangelisti narrates the histories of Angela de Merici (1470-1540), who founded the Ursulines, and Mary Ward (1585-1645), whose English Ladies failed to attain approval for an Ignatian mode of life that would allow women "to participate in active spiritual renewal and fight for the Catholic faith."

Evangelisti writes with authority and insight into the 250-year struggle to negotiate the complex tension between enclosure and worldly involvement, silence and speech, class and wealth, contemplation and action.

"Nuns" is a fascinating history of a period that gave us the style of religious life we know today, a history that models how women can learn to live with paradox and change as they give form to their desire to worship and serve.

Linner, a freelance writer, lives in Boston.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 6, 2009

Sept. 6, Twenty-third
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:7-10
- 2) James 2:1-5
- 3) Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Christ calls us to put faith into action

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I heard a story once about an obviously homeless man sitting on the steps of a church on a Sunday morning. He was wrapped in a dirty blanket, wore a hat and scarf and was hunched in a corner shielding himself from the cold.

As parishioners came up the steps they looked at him and hurried into the church. Inside there was some murmuring about the situation on the steps, but no one took any action.

As the service was about to begin the back doors of the church opened, and the man who had been sitting on the steps now slowly made his way down the center aisle. He sat in the first pew and readied himself for the service. The murmuring grew but still no one did a thing.

When it was time for the homily the

priest said there was a visiting missionary who was going to give the message. At that point the man from the steps rose from his place in the first row and took his place at the ambo.

He began to preach on James 2:1-5:

"My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Sit here, please,' while you say to the poor one, 'Stand there,' or 'Sit at my feet,' have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?"

This Sunday's readings challenge us to look past ourselves and to put on the mind of Christ who is bigger than all obstacles. It is one thing to have a strong faith, but it is another thing altogether to put that faith into action. Jesus did not just say powerful words, he did powerful things.

We are called to walk in his footsteps.

Questions:

How have you seen people being the hands and feet of Christ in the world? What are some of the things that hold people back from putting their faith into action?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?" (James 2:5)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 30-SEP. 5

Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; **Monday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday**, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday**, Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday (St. Gregory the Great)**, Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday**, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday (Bl. Teresa of Calcutta)**, Colossians 1:21-23, Luke 6:1-5.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 6-12

Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37; **Monday**, Colossians 1:24-2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday (The Nativity of Mary)**, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; **Wednesday (St. Peter Claver)**, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday**, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday (Most Holy Name of Mary)**, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 6:43-49.



Please pray for the
following priests who
died during the month
of September

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Burke 2001
Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan 1981
Rev. Msgr. Arthur Duncan 2002
Rev. James King 1978
Rev. John J. Murray 1997
Rev. Edward F. O'Doherty 1998

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Maryknoll radio program wins sixth Gracie award

By honoring radio segment, organization shines light on important issues

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' weekly radio program, "Voices of Our World," recently won the 2009 national Gracie Award in the category for outstanding public affairs program.

A segment on domestic violence, "Till Fear Do Us Part," received the program's sixth Gracie Award in eight years.

The Gracies are the highest recognition presented by the American Women in Radio and Television, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the impact of women in the media.

"Till Fear Do Us Part" features two women from New York state, Joanne Rodda and Elizabeth Grant, both victims of domestic violence who reached out for help.

According to "Voices" producer Kathy Golden, Rodda and Grant's

courage and determination ultimately led them to form their own empowerment group, Women Achieving More, to inspire women in similar circumstances.

Golden accepted the award along with other 2009 national winners at the Gracies Gala June 3 at the New York Marriot Marquis Hotel, with both Rodda and Grant in attendance. Golden said the award was important because it recognized the work of the radio program itself but also the efforts of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers to speak up for the underrepresented.

"By honoring the segment we ran on domestic violence, AWRT is shining a light on that issue as well," Golden said.

According to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, nearly 5.3 million incidents of domestic violence occur each year in the United States, resulting in 2 million reported injuries and at least 1,300 deaths annually.

St. Paul updated as graphic novel: Hit or miss?

Artwork, writing, theme hamper effort

REVIEWED BY
SHARON BOEHLEFELD AND
CHRIS BOEHLEFELD JR.
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



Sure, Steve Ross retells and updates the horrors faced by the early Christians in his graphic novel "Blinded," but it's hard to see the light that Paul of Tarsus saw that day on the road to Damascus.

In a style that seems to imitate Frank Miller's "Sin City," the novel is drawn completely in black and white.

But the art, while in some ways reminiscent of the underground comics of the 1960s and '70s, emphasizes blood and guts and exaggerates anatomy in ways that, if a movie, would probably earn it at least an A-III classification (for adults) from the U.S. bishops' film office.

For the most part, the graphics are run-of-the-mill — technically proficient, but not groundbreaking.

Because of the genre, it would seem Ross is aiming at a largely male audience, but it's hard to tell whether he sees his book in the hands of younger or older readers of graphic novels.

There is frequent sexual innuendo, and one blatant incident that wouldn't make it to a "general audience" movie. And there's the recurring theme of circumcision.

Paul does write in his letters that the gentiles who want to follow Christ aren't bound by the same laws as their Jewish brethren, so the example is salient, but a little over the top in advancing the story line.

As for the dialogue, it seems a little contrived. It has neither the poetry of good biblical translations, nor the currency of daily conversation.

There are a few lighter moments, but

no real, laugh-out-loud comic relief.

Granted, the times were hard for Paul and the "flesh eaters" who ate the body and drank the blood of Christ. But the "K.O.H.," kingdom of heaven — at least as Ross describes it — doesn't seem reason enough to martyr oneself for the truth.

Yes, there are moments — prison time, shipwreck, mass martyrdoms — that come across as action-movie high points.

And perhaps the most compelling scene finds Paul, alone in prison, cutting the back of his own wrist so he can get blood to write letters to the faithful.

But, in the end, the message of hope and love feels faint, even trivial.

The original might actually make a better summer read than the graphic novel.

"Blinded" could make for an interesting couple of hours, but you could give it a pass and never miss it.

Sharon Boehlefeld, a staff member at *The Observer*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., is a DC comics reader from back in the day. Chris Boehlefeld Jr. is a fan of today's graphic novels from DC, Marvel and Vertigo publishers.

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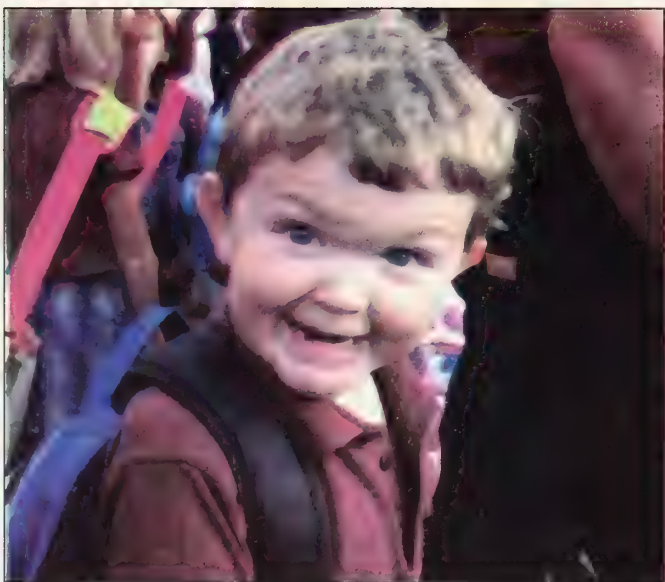
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Dog days of school



COURTESY PHOTO

Pepper, the "school dog," wears his uniform along with sixth-graders Andrew Buchmeier, Analisa Camacho and Nicholas Buchmeier on the first day of classes at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Aug. 24.



COURTESY PHOTO

Glad to be back

First-grader Corbin Rusch is all smiles on his first day of classes at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Aug. 24.

Going green at St. Leo



COURTESY PHOTO

Students and teachers are pictured on the first day of classes at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Aug. 24. As this year's Catholic Schools Week theme is "Dividends for Life," the students are holding a "Go Green" sign as a representation of their goal to take better care of the earth.

Father football



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Robert Conway, chaplain at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, is pictured on the sidelines during a football game as part of the school's annual opening week football jamboree Aug. 22. Holy Trinity currently has three football teams.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Learning the power of making a stand

The students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow

One of the lessons taught in every social studies or government class in high schools across the United States is the importance of civic responsibility.

The voice of the people is essential to ensure those elected to public office understand the views of those whom they represent.

Teens who want to actively engage in the democratic process and let their voices be heard often take the lessons learned in the classroom and immediately apply them to the real world.

That's just what dozens of teenagers are doing in eastern Kentucky. The teens belong to the Pike County Youth Leadership Council.

They're on a mission — they want the towns in their community to ban smoking at restaurants — and they're demanding that their voices be heard.

Depending on where you live, that may not seem like a big deal. In the Northeast and other parts of the country, smoking sections in restaurants have been outlawed for years.

In Kentucky, however, things are a bit different. Kentucky has more tobacco farms than any other state. These kids aren't just standing up for better health; they're standing up against the industry that likely provides jobs to their families and many people they know.

The leadership council's message is simple: A smoking ban will improve the health of the community and protect children who don't have a say in where they eat.

Taking such a stand is courageous, but you might be surprised to learn it has also been successful.

So far the teens have visited three communities in their area. One enacted a smoking ban soon after the teens appeared before the town council.

And in follow-up, the teen organization's president shared with the town's leaders new information indicating that since that town initiated its smoking ban many of its restaurants have shown increases in business.

Coming of Age

ERICK ROMMELL
CNS COLUMNIST



The second community hasn't taken any action yet. And the teens just met with the third community earlier in August.

When the teens visited this community, they didn't just bring statistics. They also offered petitions with the signatures of thousands of registered voters who also support a smoking ban.

The town's leaders were impressed by the teens' presentation, but government being government, no decision is forthcoming. The council wants to investigate the issue further and hear from businesses that will be affected by any changes.

Whether these teens are ultimately successful with all of their quests is irrelevant to the bigger picture. They've learned that people with a common cause can be heard, a lesson that's often lost in our world of Facebook and Twitter, where many people talk as individuals and not as a group.

Years from now, the current members of the Pike County Youth Leadership Council will graduate and move on to different activities. But they won't forget. They've given their voice and initiated change. It may not be too long before some of those teens are on the town councils they once appeared before.

Maybe their sights will be set even higher.

Wouldn't it be something if these students who are learning about government today became those who lead government tomorrow?

If that happens, we'll be in very good hands indeed.

Nobody's perfect

Remembering Sen. Ted Kennedy

Walter Sheridan, who died in 1995, was one of my closest friends.

For many years he worked at the side of Robert F. Kennedy as an investigator on the Senate labor rackets committee and as a special assistant to the attorney general as head of what some called the "Get Hoffa" squad in the Justice Department.

After Bob Kennedy's death, Walter became a special assistant to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

News of Ted Kennedy's death brought me back in memory to a conversation I had with him in the mid-1970s in a corridor of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The senator and I had met previously on a number of occasions, and as we approached each other in the hallway, he stopped and asked: "Don't I know you? Aren't you a friend of Walter Sheridan's?"

After I responded, the senator smiled, spread the forefinger and middle finger on his right hand in slingshot fashion, and said, "Whenever I look at Walter, and I see him every day, I can't help but think of Bobby. And whenever Walter looks in here," his two fingers pointing directly into his eyes, "he's trying to find Bobby, but he's just not here."

Sen. Kennedy disappointed his staff assistant on occasion by not voting the way Walter advised on some issues where the two saw the integrity principle that was at stake from different perspectives.

But they respected one another and worked well together.

Ted Kennedy will be remembered as a legislative strategist without peer and a truly great United States senator.

But he never claimed to be perfect in his public or private life. Both his critics and admirers will have lots to talk about for years to come.

Upon hearing the news of the senator's death, a priest I know asked whether or not he would be buried in the church.

Of course he will, I said; he was a Catholic in good standing.

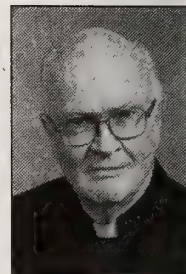
True, he was divorced and remarried. But there was an annulment and he had the benefit of the sacraments.

Some will ask whether he was able to obtain the annulment because he was a Kennedy. This excerpt from Adam Clymer's 1999 biography may or may not help clarify things:

"Ted was able to take Communion (at his mother's funeral) because the

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



Catholic Church had granted him an annulment a couple of months before. He and his office never discussed it, but Joan (his first wife) said years later she had not opposed it, and that the ground Ted had cited was that his marriage vow to be faithful had not been honestly made."

In the eyes of the church there is no marriage if the persons entering into it are not free to marry (such as, already bound to another in marriage), do not enter freely into the marriage (there must be no coercion), do not intend to be faithful to the other, do not intend the marriage to be permanent, and do not have the physical or psychological capacity to make the marriage work.

The annulment process looks at all of these elements, and if there is proof of fraud or misrepresentation on any count, there is, the church declares, no marriage.

I was told by a mutual friend, but have no other proof, that upon learning of his terminal cancer, Ted Kennedy had a meeting with Joan, his first wife, for purposes of apology and personal forgiveness.

I have no way of verifying that, nor am I inclined to want to check it out.

Judgment is God's work, not mine.

Ted was too ill to attend his sister Eunice's funeral a few weeks ago. I suspect they are together now with their other siblings, surrounding a mother who died at age 104 and who will be remembered as one who said:

"The most important element in human life is faith. If God were to take away all his blessings, health, physical fitness, wealth, intelligence and leave me with but one gift, I would ask for faith, for with faith in him and his goodness, mercy and love for me, and belief in everlasting life, I believe I could suffer the loss of my other gifts and be happy."

As Ted remarked in eulogizing his mother at her funeral, "She was ambitious not only for our success, but for our souls."

Catholics must take on health care reform

We are in the midst of a volatile situation surrounding health care reform in the United States. There are numerous accusations, misstatements, half-truths and distortions of facts.

Often these statements come from people who are uninformed or threatened by any type of reform discussion.

It is important for our Catholic leadership to speak loud and clear at this

time, both on the national and local levels (including pastors in our parishes).

Today 46 million of God's children are left out with no health insurance coverage, and 14,000 more are losing their coverage every day. Our leadership must help us find a common ground to discuss and solve this moral issue.

And this is a moral issue, not simply a political one.

Letter to the Editor

As people of faith we must not stand by and simply let the vociferous control the process. Sensible reform is possible if enough of us demand it.

— James Doll
Columbus

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

This is the last issue of The Catholic News & Herald under the direction of Kevin Murray. After eight years of dedicated service as editor, he is leaving to pursue a new creative venture. We at The Catholic News & Herald are excited for him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The constant gardener

TLC is the best ingredient for growth, change

While editing a recent issue of The Catholic News & Herald, I came across a quote by Capuchin Franciscan Father Nick Mormando, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, in regard to his goals for his parish.

"My vision may not be God's. You have to be willing to let go of your own to find the strength and grace to implement what God wants."

I read those words as I was discerning my own vision — not for this newspaper, but for my future.

Hoping to clear my head, I decided to take a walk through the neighborhood outside the diocesan Pastoral Center. It was a blisteringly hot day, so I moved along at a leisurely pace, more consumed with the thoughts rattling about in my head than where my feet were taking me.

As I turned a corner, I happened upon a man toiling in a small yard outside a modest house. He wore a wide, floppy hat and was humming a delightful tune while using a hose to water the most peculiar of lawns.

The grass was lush in some areas but speckled with weeds in others. Vines snaked their way through the blades. Patches of dirt pockmarked the interior, and the oddest assortment of flowers and shrubs in all colors, shapes and sizes lined the perimeter.

As I strolled by, the man called my name. I turned to see God beaming at me from underneath the hat.

He drew a cloth from his work shirt and wiped his sweaty brow. "My, it's hot as Hades out here," he huffed.

"I wouldn't know," I replied with a smile.

His laugh was hearty. "And let's keep it that way!" He then reached into a nearby cooler, withdrew two soft drink cans and offered me one. "Fresca?"

I eagerly accepted and took a gulp. Soon we were sitting idly in the shade on God's front porch, watching the sun bake. A man walked by with his dog. God waved, but the man barely

afforded him an upward glance.

God shrugged. "Ah, well. Maybe tomorrow."

We sat a while longer, and God keenly noticed how my eyes kept drifting to his yard.

"It's something, isn't it?" asked God, admiring his work.

"That's one way to put it," I hedged. "It's ... well, it's not what I expected."

"How so?"

"It's your yard, God," I answered. "I expected it to be ... well, perfect."

He simply smiled. "It's perfect to me."

So I began to point out all the imperfections. When I started listing the various methods and chemicals he could use to "fix" and "better" the yard, God finally held up his hands.

"I think the issue is that you and I have a difference of opinion about what a yard should look like," he said.

"But, don't you want it to look like all the other yards?"

"Goodness no. You can't be too hands-on when it comes to such things. Sometimes you just have to let the grass grow as it's meant to grow. That's what makes it unique. Where would the fun be if it all grew the same way? It's the variety that makes it interesting. It's the trouble spots that make it challenging, and its overcoming them that makes the growth all the more worthwhile in the end. Only then can it truly blossom."

"But, sometimes you do have to help it along," I insisted. "Otherwise, the weeds will take over."

"Of course you help it along," God agreed. "You provide food and nutrients as needed. You tend and protect as needed. But forcing the weeds, for example, to be something they're not, or not ready to become?" He shook his head. "No, heavy hands only crush the beauty. I prefer a different, more delicate approach. It's the one constant that has never failed me."

"What is it?" I asked.

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR



"Love," he stated. "A true gardener loves his creations, and to help them grow good and strong all you really need to use is some tender loving care."

"Love," I said dryly.

"It's the most powerful thing in the world," God affirmed. "And too often, the least used."

As I rolled that around in my brain, God took an easy sip of his Fresca.

"It's not really my lawn that's troubling you, is it?" he asked.

"No," I admitted. "An opportunity has presented itself and I'm considering pursuing it, but it will take me away from my job at the diocese."

God smiled and beckoned to his neighbor's yard. "Grass always seems greener on the other side of the fence."

"But what should I do?" I asked. "What if the grass isn't greener over there?"

He took another sip of his drink. "Sometimes it is. Sometimes it's not. All you can do is have faith, do your best to spread the love and help it grow. And in turn, you grow."

"And blossom?" I asked.

He grinned and patted me on the head.

"But if I go, will it be what you want me to do?" I asked.

He inclined his head toward his most peculiar of yards. "My son, have you not heard a thing I've said?"

I smiled. "Yes, God. I think I have. And, thank you."

"For the Fresca?" he asked. "Anytime."

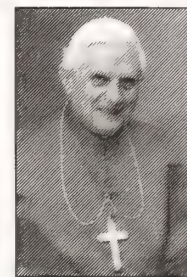
As I reached the sidewalk, God was back in his yard, a watering can in his hand, a delightful tune emanating from his lips. I looked up and down the street, at the path I had taken and the way I had yet to go.

And with a clear mind and God's voice in my ears, I picked a direction, turned and started to walk.

Pope says global leaders must take care of environment, remember poor

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged world leaders Aug. 26 to address global environmental issues "with generous courage" and reminded them that the world's resources are to be shared by all, including poorer countries.

Here is an excerpt of the pope's audience remarks in English.

The church considers that matters concerning the environment and its protection are intimately linked with integral human development.

In my recent encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," I referred to such questions recalling the pressing moral need for renewed solidarity not only between countries but also between individuals, since the natural environment is given by God to everyone, and so our use of it entails a personal responsibility towards humanity as a whole, particularly towards the poor and towards future generations.

How important it is then, that the international community and individual governments send the right signals to their citizens and succeed in countering harmful ways of treating the environment!

The economic and social costs of using up shared resources must be recognized with transparency and borne by those who incur them, and not by other peoples or future generations. The protection of the environment, and the safeguarding of resources and of the climate, oblige all leaders to act jointly, respecting the law and promoting solidarity with the weakest regions of the world.

Together we can build an integral human development beneficial for all peoples, present and future, a development inspired by the values of charity in truth.

For this to happen it is essential that the current model of global development be transformed through a greater, and shared, acceptance of responsibility for creation: this is demanded not only by environmental factors, but also by the scandal of hunger and human misery.

With these sentiments I wish to encourage all the participants in the United Nations summit to enter into their discussions constructively and with generous courage.

Indeed, we are all called to exercise responsible stewardship of creation, to use resources in such a way that every individual and community can live with dignity, and to develop that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God!"

Make room for trust

A 40-year-old diabetic named Paul lost his job and went into a funk. He had serious health issues, and without a job he was running out of cash. He tried prayer but felt God was not listening.

By accident, he came across a quote from Pope John Paul II: "Christianity is about salvation that comes from a loving God." That thought touched him deeply.

The idea that we are all being prepared for eternal life according to God's plan made him ponder the deeper mystery of life. He felt called to trust God more but didn't know how to go about it. He needed a path out of the fear and self-pity that were tearing him apart.

He accepted in blind faith that the Lord's love was guiding his life. He didn't understand it, but he began to see that the beautiful saving plan of

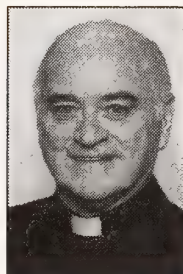
God sometimes leads us down paths we would not have chosen for ourselves.

Faith enables us to see the miracle of God's love present at every stage of life, and joy is the simplest response to God's love and beauty. For this reason Paul took to heart these words of St. Paul, the saint he was named after but hardly ever thought about: "Rejoice always. ... In all circumstances give thanks" to the Lord.

Paul decided to trust God more. He began to focus on the beauty of creation all around him, and he suspended fear about the future. It wasn't easy, but trusting that God would help him find his way made a big difference in his emotional life. He persevered in his good intentions and developed a good frame of mind, which in turn helped him to find a new job. It paid less, but he was happy.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



Attaining spiritual joy may seem impossible, but "what is impossible for human beings is possible for God." Here was a man who thought he was at the end of his rope. But when his attitude changed his life improved immensely.

An amazing grace was given to him, a grace to trust God more and his fears less. Then all he had to do was expect the best. It is what we call a leap of faith.

Trust the past to God's mercy and the future to his divine providence.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



Bishop Peter J. Jugis invites you to the
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
5TH EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

September 25 & 26, 2009
CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER
No Admission Charge* – Bring Your Friends

FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Concert of Sacred Music
- Keynote Speaker – Immaculée Ilibagiza
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

• Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Brother Milton Lopez
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

K-5 TRACK



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"The Donut Man"

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Hot wings to heaven; the
purpose of work; learning
to communicate

| PAGES 14-15

Bishop welcomes renewal for entire diocese

*Invitation outlines
blessings of 5th
Eucharistic Congress*

CHARLOTTE — As the date of the Diocese of Charlotte's 5th Eucharistic Congress approaches, Bishop Peter J. Jugis extends an invitation to all area Catholics to attend.

In a letter to Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte, the bishop called on parishioners to pray for the success of the congress.

He described the congress, which is to be held Sept. 25-26 at the Charlotte Convention Center, as an opportunity to experience spiritual renewal, enhance appreciation of the gift of the Eucharist and refresh zeal for the new evangelization.

See BISHOP, page 13

Old school, new building, continuing excellence



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Students kneel for the consecration during the Mass and dedication of the new Sacred Heart School building in Salisbury Sept. 1.

Bishop dedicates Sacred Heart School

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — A school with a long history has started a new chapter.

Students, teachers, parents and friends gathered for the celebration of Mass and the blessing and dedication of the new Sacred Heart School Sept. 1.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis was the principal celebrant with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church; and Father James Ebright, priest in residence; concelebrating.

For a school with origins dating back to 1882, the dedication of the new school building represents a commitment to continuing Catholic education.

"I am proud of what has

See DEDICATION, page 9

The gift that keeps on giving

*Couple creates
endowment for
seminarian training*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Faith and family are two things that have always been important to Eugene and Carmen Rossitch.

After immigrating to the United States from Cuba in the early 1960s, the Rossitches

See GIFT, page 5

Catholic Conversions

*Episcopal nuns, priest to become Catholics after
years of prayer*

BY GEORGE
P. MATYSEK JR.
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE (CNS) — After seven years of prayer and discernment, a community of Episcopal sisters and their chaplain were to be received into the Catholic Church during a Sept. 3 Mass celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien.

The archbishop was to

welcome 10 sisters from the Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor when he administers the sacrament of confirmation and the sisters renew their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the chapel of their convent in suburban Catonsville, Md.

The Rev. Warren Tanghe, an Episcopal priest, also was to be received into the church and

See CONVERTS, page 7



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Sister Emily Ann Lindsey and Sister Margaret Muraki pray in the chapel at the Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor convent in Catonsville, Md., Aug. 24. The sisters, part of an Episcopal order, will be joining the Catholic Church Sept. 3.

Culture Watch

New books for college
students; Pope John Paul II
film festival

Around the diocese

Local parish gives big; youth
ministry workshop looks at
new handbook

| PAGES 10-11

| PAGES 12

20 days until the
Eucharistic Congress
September 25 & 26
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See back page.

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CATHOLIC CYCLES 20,000 MILES TO FIGHT CANCER



CNS PHOTO OF MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Michael Fahey, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, N.Y., has biked all over the world since 1996, raising money for the American Cancer Society along the way. The 67-year-old has racked up some 20,000 miles.

Bicyclist donates to breast cancer, remembers wife

HOLLEY, N.Y. (CNS) — To residents of China, Russia and a score of smaller countries, it didn't appear that Michael Fahey was riding a bicycle built for two.

Yet it's really the only way he ever travels. The other rider is his wife, Ruth, and her seat is in his soul.

Fahey first took to the road in earnest during Ruth's long bout with breast cancer. Some days he'd bike for prayer and reflection; other times he'd head off to buy Ruth's medications.

After Ruth died in September 1995 at age 48, Fahey's mother-in-law asked what he was going to do next.

"I said, 'I cycled 2,000 miles this summer, so I think I'll bike across the United States,'" Fahey recalled.

He made good on that idea the following year, beginning his cross-country trek in Newport, Ore., and ending it 35 days later at the Chesapeake Bay — traveling an average of nearly 100 miles per day.

That sparked a series of megatours that have taken Fahey all over the world: Ireland and England in 1999; Western Europe in 2002; Eastern Europe in 2004; Eastern Europe and China in 2005; more areas of China in 2006 and again in 2007; nine countries in Africa covering 7,000 miles in 2008; and Australia this past April.

In all, these globe-trotting treks have seen the 67-year-old Catholic rack up some 20,000 miles. He also has raised approximately \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society in memory of his wife.

Fahey, a former banker who is now a real estate broker, said all funds he collects go to the cancer society because he finances his own travel expenses.

His home is dotted with mementos as well as photograph albums containing images of everything from the Eiffel

Tower to a sign at the entrance of Lost Springs, Wyo. — population four.

Fahey plans his own routes as well as lodging that has included motels, hostels, the homes of kindhearted strangers and campgrounds where he unwraps his tent and sleeping bag that make up much of the 70-pound load he carries.

Fahey observed that people of all ages and nationalities, particularly the Chinese, have extended kindness after learning about his endeavor. He's not versed in any foreign languages, but conveys basic needed information via phrase books.

Many of his conversations have occurred in bike-repair shops where Fahey has landed because of broken spokes and tire problems.

When not off somewhere touring, Fahey enjoys biking to weekday Masses and Communion services at his parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin.

"I try to stay in shape," he said.

Next up for Fahey is a possible trip next year along U.S. Route 1, beginning in Maine and extending 2,000 miles south to the Florida Keys; or on the Natchez Trace, a 440-mile trek through much of Tennessee and Mississippi.

He also hasn't ruled out a tour of South America, which would be his sixth of seven continents — although he said there are no plans to complete that list by biking in Antarctica.

"I don't like to bicycle when it's cold," he said with a laugh.

Fahey said he might cut back the lengths of his world trips at some point, but for now his motivation remains especially high based on the ongoing threat of cancer on his wife's side of the family. In fact, one of his three daughters, Shari, is in remission from breast cancer.

"I have to keep moving," he stated.

Pope Prays for Priests

Pope says families should create 'spiritual terrain' for vocations

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said Catholic parents should make sure to create a "fertile spiritual terrain" for priestly vocations as they educate their children in the faith.

The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing at his summer residence outside Rome Aug. 30, said he hoped for a vocations revival in the Year for Priests, which began in June. The year marks the 150th anniversary of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests.

"When couples dedicate themselves generously to the education of their children, guiding and orienting them toward the discovery of God's design of love, they prepare that fertile spiritual terrain where vocations to the priesthood

and consecrated life arise and mature," the pope said.

He offered a prayer that in the Year for Priests, "Christian families may become small churches in which all the vocations and charisms given by the Holy Spirit will be welcomed and valued."

The pope said the history of Christianity features innumerable examples of saintly parents and families, including Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, who were beatified in 2001. The couple had four children, including two sons who became priests.

The pope appeared relaxed as he greeted pilgrims in the packed courtyard of his villa in Castel Gandolfo. He returns to his Vatican residence at the end of September.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat for Young Adults in their 20s and 30s will be held in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning that will help you develop tools of reflection for living in the present for the sake of tomorrow. The retreat will be followed by Mass. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, call St. Peter's at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail yamretreat@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Gospel According to St. John, a 12-week seminar stressing the divinity of Christ, will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Sundays beginning Sept. 13 from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the activity center. This seminar aims to create in attendees an interest in and a love for Scripture in order to foster spiritual growth. For more information, call (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — There will be an inquiry meeting for those interested in joining a Dominican Laitry Group (third Order of St. Dominic) Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The group is open to all who are in conformity with the teaching of the Magisterium and who are seeking the Dominican spiritual life. For more information, call Mary Snow at (704) 847-4405 or e-mail info@charlottelaydominicans.org. Or visit the Web site at www.charlottelaydominicans.org.

CHARLOTTE — "Come and See," an informational social to answer questions regarding the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will be held in the Parish Hall at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, we would love to help you on your faith journey. Classes will be held the second week of September through the first week of October on Sundays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Polce at (704) 545-7580 or kmpsjn@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life presents *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. The series will take place once a month from August through November. The series will take place at Harper's Restaurant, 11059 Carolina Place Pkwy. Come and mingle at 6:30 p.m., speaker will start around 7 p.m. The next session will be Sept. 17 on the topic "Finding Meaning in Your Work" presented by Deacon Mark King. For event details, visit www.meetup.com/youngadultlife or e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Blood Give-In will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sign ups will be in the Narthex the weekends of Sept. 5-6 and Sept. 12-13. Walk-ins will be accepted as time permits.

CHARLOTTE — The Fall 2009 Kick-off vigil for the 40 Days for Life will be held at St. Ann Church at 3635 Park Rd. Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. 40

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 37

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Top Vatican official dismisses talk of rollback on Vatican II

No proposed modifications of liturgical books

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, has dismissed fears that Pope Benedict XVI plans to roll back major ecclesial changes introduced by the Second Vatican Council.

On the contrary, the German pontiff has demonstrated his commitment to the council during his more than four years as pope, Cardinal Bertone told the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, in an interview published Aug. 27.

In the wake of recent reports about plans to reverse liturgical changes made since Vatican II, Cardinal Bertone said reporters and observers should stick to the actual actions undertaken by the pope since his election.

"The other ruminations and whispers about presumed documents of reversal

are pure invention, following a standard and stubbornly re-proposed formula," he said.

A week earlier, an Italian newspaper reported that the Vatican's worship congregation had given the pope a document with proposed liturgical modifications, including a curb on the practice of receiving Communion in the hand. A Vatican spokesman later said that, at present, there were "no institutional proposals for a modification of the liturgical books."

Cardinal Bertone pointed to several areas in which he said Pope Benedict had promoted the teaching of Vatican II "with intelligence and depth of thought," including relations with Eastern and Orthodox churches and dialogue with Judaism and Islam.

Vatican approves US catechism revision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for Clergy has approved a small change in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults clarifying Catholic teaching about God's covenant with the Jewish people.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Aug. 27 that the Vatican had granted its "recognition" to a one-sentence revision of the catechism that was approved by the U.S. bishops at their June 2008 meeting.

The revised sentence, in a section that explains relations between the Catholic Church and Jews, reads: "To the Jewish people, whom God first chose to hear his word, 'belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ'" (Rom 9: 4-5; cf. CCC, No. 839).

The original sentence read: "Thus the covenant that God made with the Jewish people through Moses remains eternally valid for them."

The statement from the USCCB said: "The clarification reflects the teaching of the church that all previous covenants that God made with the Jewish people are fulfilled in Jesus Christ through the new covenant established through his sacrificial death on the cross.

"Catholics believe that the Jewish people continue to live within the truth of the covenant God made with Abraham, and that God continues to be faithful to them," it said.

According to the USCCB, the Catholic Catechism for Adults is about to go into a second printing. The 664-page adult catechism was adopted by the U.S. bishops in November 2004 and later approved by the Vatican.

Days for Life is a nationwide, pro-life campaign seeking to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful vigil outside of a local abortion facility. The campaign runs Sept. 23 through Nov. 1 and will be held outside of "A Preferred Women's Health Center," 3220 Latrobe Dr., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, contact Brian or Angela Williams at (704) 847-7311 or e-mail at angiegirl67@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and Scripture study in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. A six-week program on the Book of Daniel in conjunction with the First and Second Book of Maccabees will take place once a week Aug. 25 through Sept. 29. The program will review the history of Israel in the centuries before the Lord's coming. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — Free *Spanish classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., every Thursday for 8 weeks beginning Sept. 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Beginner and advanced classes are open to everyone and class materials are furnished. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Dr. Kwan at Hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a *diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park/Campgrounds in Morganton, 7081 NC Hwy. 181 N., Sept. 19. The Grand Ultreya begins at 11:30 a.m. with Mass at 12 p.m. Lunch follows. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink; Cursillo will provide hamburgers/hotdogs. Other events include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks, and hiking/nature trails for children. The event ends at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Fabrizze at mfabrizze@aol.com.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — *Catholic Daughters of the Americas* is seeking Catholic women ages 18 and up to join the organization. The Catholic Daughters were founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus and now have more than 95,000 members worldwide. Courts in the Diocese of Charlotte are located in Charlotte, Asheville, Statesville, Salisbury, Greensboro and Sylva. Membership is open to all Catholic women. For more information, contact Essie Walker at (704) 577-7436.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans of the Fraternity of St. Clare is sponsoring a *Blessing of the Animals* Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd. All caged or leashed pets welcome. For more information, call Anne Modrow at (336) 760-1938.

CLEMMONS — *Eucharistic Adoration* takes place every Thursday in the Curlin Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Carole at pinmoney@bellsouth.net.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 6 (9 a.m.)
Parish Mass
St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill

Sept. 8 (11 a.m.)
Presbyteral Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Sept. 8 (4 p.m.)
Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving of Priestly Ordinations
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Sept. 9 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle

Miguel Diaz sworn in as ambassador to Vatican



CNS PHOTO, COURTESY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz is sworn in as ambassador to the Vatican in the Benjamin Franklin room at the State Department in Washington Aug. 21. Assistant Secretary of State Phil Gordon administered the standard governmental oath of office.

New US ambassador to Vatican arrives in Rome

ROME (CNS) — The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Diaz, arrived in Rome and said he was eager to help expand the "special relationship" between the United States and the Holy See.

Diaz, a 45-year-old Catholic theologian, arrived with his wife and four children at Rome's Fiumicino airport Aug. 27, six days after he was sworn in as ambassador in Washington. He was expected to present his credentials to Pope Benedict XVI at a ceremony later this summer.

"I will be honored to serve President (Barack) Obama and the American people in my new role, and it will be a unique

honor to meet his holiness, Pope Benedict XVI," Diaz said in a statement released by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

Diaz, a professor at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict in Minnesota, is the first Hispanic and the first theologian to represent the United States at the Vatican.

A native of Cuba who came to the United States as a child with his parents, he was the first of his family to attend college. He is a former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians and a board member of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He is fluent in Italian, Spanish and French.



CNS PHOTO BY JENNIFER REED, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Father Michael Depcik, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, left, celebrates Mass in American Sign Language at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pa., June 28. Father Thomas Rozman, pastor of St. Patrick, right, offers voice interpretation at the Mass. Father Rozman is currently taking classes in sign language at Gallaudet University in Washington, in an effort to minister to deaf Catholics in the Harrisburg Diocese.

Priest studies sign language to better minister to deaf Catholics

BY JESSIE ABRAMS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The silence of the hallways is only interrupted by intermittent laughter and the occasional sound of moving chairs. A man noiselessly converses with someone on a higher floor, turns away and heads up a spiraling staircase to join his companion.

At Gallaudet University in Washington, an institution specializing in undergraduate liberal arts education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, the pervasive quiet does not suggest a lack of activity.

During one of Gallaudet's summer sessions, many classrooms were full of hearing and deaf students learning everything from elementary sign language to how to prepare for interpretation exams.

Father Thomas Rozman, pastor of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Harrisburg, Pa., was practicing signing with his classmates in one of the rooms, with desks in a circle to maximize visibility. He is in his second consecutive year of summer studies at Gallaudet and is taking American Sign Language II, or ASL, in an effort to help more deaf Catholics feel a part of their faith.

"They feel like they don't have a home in the church because they can't communicate," Father Rozman, who is not deaf, said. "A deaf person who wants to go to confession can write, but it's uncomfortable."

"Evangelization is so important in the church and I think it's troubling when we hear that 96 percent of Catholics who are deaf don't go to church," Father Rozman said. "I think that we as evangelizers need to get the word across and a way of doing that is for someone to learn sign language and help them (deaf Catholics), especially with confession."

Sign language and English are

not the same languages just conveyed in different ways, he stressed. Signed Exact English, or SEE, is the equivalent of English without sound, but he said from what he understands the deaf prefer ASL.

For example SEE uses four distinct symbols to represent the question "What are you doing?" In ASL, it's one symbol.

For now, regardless of whether they fully comprehend it, Duncan said, deaf Catholics should attend Mass in hopes they will pick it up little by little.

The priest said he hopes to return to Washington next summer to continue his studies in ASL and wants to attend a couple of conferences. Eventually, he said, he wants to be able to celebrate Mass entirely in ASL.

Upcoming Vatican conference focuses on role of the deaf in the church

Meeting to raise awareness, underline contributions of the deaf

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In response to numerous requests for how the Catholic community could increase its attention toward the deaf, the Vatican has organized an upcoming conference focusing on the role of deaf people in the church.

The Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry decided to dedicate its annual international conference this year to the condition, needs and experiences of deaf people, including deaf religious and laypeople and their families.

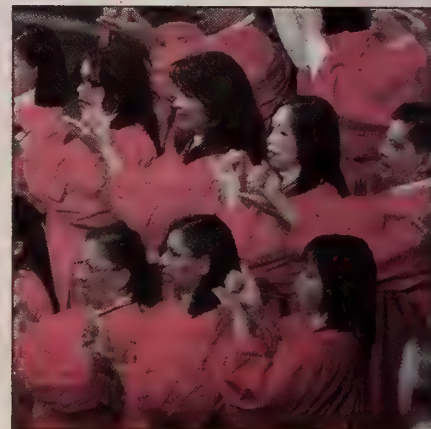
The theme of the Nov. 19-21 Vatican gathering, "Ephphatha: Deaf People in the Life of the Church," recalls the Aramaic word meaning "be opened" that Jesus used to heal a deaf man.

The council said on its Web site that it wished "to respond to the numerous requests that we have received asking for the possibility of organizing a symposium" focusing on how the church could help raise awareness about the various situations faced by the deaf "so as to give them full dignity and respect of their rights."

The council's president, Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, presented Pope Benedict XVI with the finalized program of the 24th international meeting during a private audience Aug. 26, reported the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

The conference hopes to "offer the church an opportunity to underline the contribution of the deaf in various fields of the apostolate, thus giving them full recognition of the significance of their work," the archbishop told the Vatican newspaper Sept. 1.

The meeting's aim is "to raise awareness and foster concrete and



CNS FILE PHOTO

A choir uses sign language during a special meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and handicapped youths and their caregivers last year in New York during the pope's U.S. visit. A Vatican meeting focusing on the role of deaf people in the church will be held in November.

effective action in the church and society toward alleviating the disadvantages the deaf face," he said.

The U.S.- and U.K.-based International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons helped organize the event. Its president, Archbishop Patrick Kelly of Liverpool, England, and executive director, Terry O'Meara, were to participate at the conference.

Other speakers from around the world were to include religious and laypeople who are deaf, those who work with deaf people either in the church or in society, and people who are in charge of pastoral programs dealing with health care issues.

Talks were to look at the medical, psychological and social aspects of deafness as well as pastoral programs that foster the participation of the deaf in church life and the wider community, according to the council's Web site.



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Tickets may also be purchased on the Carolina Theatre website, www.carolinatheatre.com.

FROM THE COVER

Couple creates endowment for seminarian training

GIFT, from page 1

worked hard to provide a strong, Catholic foundation for their five sons.

"We have been able to give all of them a good Christian education," said Eugene Rossitch, which in his opinion is "much better for them even after we die than leaving them a lot of money."

Although providing for their family has always been a priority, the Rossitches said the decision to include the Diocese of Charlotte in their long-term financial plan was an easy one.

"How lucky we are in having our health and our faith and our family," said Eugene Rossitch. "It's time that we share our good fortune and blessings with our church and our community."

When the Rossitches immigrated to the U.S. in 1962, they were fleeing the regime of Fidel Castro. They came here for a fresh start.

"We are very grateful to the church

"It's time that we share our good fortune and blessings with our church and our community."

— Eugene Rossitch

community and this country, which we have adopted as our own, and we are grateful that we could start our lives over again," said Carmen Rossitch.

After living in Miami for a short time, the Rossitches moved to Winston-Salem, where Carmen Rossitch took a teaching position at Winston-Salem State University.

In Winston-Salem, they found their Catholic home at Our Lady of Mercy Church, where they have been parishioners since 1964. Their sons attended Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School and



COURTESY PHOTO

Eugene and Carmen Rossitch are pictured with their children and grandchildren at a celebration for their 50th wedding anniversary in Charlotte in 2007.

Bishop McGuinness High School.

For the past four years, Eugene Rossitch has served on the Diocesan Foundation board, a position which has allowed him to see the many good works of the foundation.

When it came time to decide what they wanted their charitable gift to go towards, the Rossitches looked at the various needs within the diocese. After careful consideration, they decided to create an endowment fund designated for seminarian training.

"We think that one of the more immediate needs for the church is vocations and the education of future priests," said Eugene Rossitch.

"We are aware of the shortage of priests in the church and we felt that was a very good way for us to help," he said.

The Rossitches believe that "the future of the church will continue to depend on the people who are willing to answer the call to become priests."

The Rossitch family has grown significantly over the years and the couple now has 16 grandchildren. Knowing that they have equipped their sons with the tools they'll need to provide for their families, the Rossitches feel confident

about their decision to leave a charitable gift to the church.

"By leaving a gift from their estate to the foundation the Rossitches are leaving a legacy in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office and director of the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

"More and more people across the diocese are taking that kind of step in living out their lives of stewardship," said Kelley. "I think that is inspirational and exciting."

The foundation is a nonprofit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the donor's estate plan or in an endowment agreement.

Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund. A committee of three to five members is set up for each endowment to determine how funds will be distributed.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD



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A combined event, sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, on the theme:

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Site for Friday evening's activities - St. William Church in Murphy, NC
Site for Saturday's activities - Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC

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W. Joseph Mann, Director, Rural Church Division, The Duke Endowment

Rev. Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA

Rev. George M. Kloster, Pastor, St. William and IHM Catholic Churches

Go to www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for registration procedures and additional information, including Hinton Rural Life Center (HRLC) lodging opportunities. Since event meeting space is limited to 100 people, and lodging options at HRLC and area hotels during the autumn season are also limited, early registration is recommended.

Questions? Call 704-370-3225 or E-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

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Cost: \$35

Three US bishops revisit controversy over Obama honor at Notre Dame

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two national Catholic publications, two U.S. archbishops and a bishop are revisiting the controversy over the honorary degree conferred on President Barack Obama by the University of Notre Dame.

Retired Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco and Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., the diocese in which Notre Dame is located, wrote separate articles about the matter for the Aug. 31-Sept. 7 issue of America magazine.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., talked about the controversy and how it was handled at a June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in an Aug. 12 interview with National Catholic Reporter, published in the newspaper's Aug. 26 edition.

Archbishop Quinn said he felt the U.S. bishops' response to the controversy "communicated several false and unintended messages" to the U.S. public, while Bishop D'Arcy said his refusal to attend the commencement ceremonies at which Obama was honored arose from his responsibility to see that Catholic universities "give public witness to the fullness of Catholic faith."

Archbishop Sheehan, as part of a wide-ranging interview with the independent Catholic weekly, said he believed the majority of U.S. bishops agreed with him that "we don't want to isolate ourselves from the rest of America by our strong views on abortion and the other things. We need to be building bridges, not burning them."

More than 70 bishops voiced their disapproval of Notre Dame's

invitation to Obama and its decision to give him an honorary degree, with some saying it violated the letter and spirit of their 2004 statement "Catholics in Political Life."

That document states: "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Critics of Obama said his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research also made him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

The bishops discussed the controversy in executive session at their June meeting in San Antonio, and passed a resolution expressing "appreciation and support" for Bishop D'Arcy and affirming his "solicitude for (Notre Dame's) Catholic identity and his loving care for all those the Lord has given him to sanctify, to teach and to shepherd."

In his America article, Bishop D'Arcy said the controversy was not about Obama, a replay of the 2008 elections or "whether it is appropriate for the president of the United States to speak at Notre Dame or any great Catholic university on the pressing issues of the day."

The central question, Bishop D'Arcy said, is: "Does a Catholic university have the responsibility to give witness to the Catholic faith and to the consequences of that faith by its actions and decisions — especially by a decision to confer its highest honor?"

Bishop D'Arcy said that, in his 24 years as head of the diocese in which Notre Dame is located, "I have never interfered in the internal governance of Notre Dame or any other institution of higher learning within the diocese."

But he said a bishop "must be concerned that Catholic institutions do not succumb to the secular culture, making decisions that appear to many, including ordinary Catholics, as a surrender to a culture opposed to the truth about life and love."

Archbishop Quinn, however, said there is "deep and troubled disagreement" among the U.S. bishops about how they should speak about abortion, which he called the "most searing and volatile issue in American public life."

Archbishop Quinn urged the U.S. hierarchy to follow the "policy of cordiality" practiced by the Vatican, which "proceeds from the conviction that the integrity of Catholic teaching can never be sacrificed" but "consistently favors engagement over confrontation."

"The Vatican shows great reluctance to publicly personalize disagreements with public officials on elements of church teaching," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Larry Wise, right, is pictured Aug. 8 with Franciscan Father James Kallarackan, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., who founded the parish farmers' market last year. Parish gardeners bring their surplus produce to the church on Sunday mornings in August and parishioners take what they want and leave whatever donation they can. The money is then divided among parish ministries.

Homegrown outreach Tennessee parish farmers' market shares bounty, supports ministries

By THERESA LAURENCE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (CNS) — St. Rose of Lima parishioner Larry Wise stood, sweat-soaked by the August sun, drawing in Massgoers like a midway barker, encouraging them to "get your fresh, homegrown vegetables right here."

Franciscan Father James Kallarackan, pastor, stood nearby handing out plastic shopping bags and trying to persuade his parishioners to take a chance with the fiery hot peppers he grew in his own garden.

People stopped and perused the offerings at the St. Rose farmers' market, scooping up handfuls of green beans, marveling at the squat purple and white eggplants, and carefully picking out the ripest red tomatoes.

Wise, a longtime gardener who raised six children on homegrown vegetables, started the farmers' market last year as a way to share the bounty of his and other parishioners' gardens, and to build community at the parish.

The thought was that, "if God's been that good to us, let's give something back," Wise explained.

Wise, a leader in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program at St. Rose, also thought the farmers' market would be a good way to get new Catholics involved with parish life, "beyond one time a week Catholics," he told the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese.

This year, Kurt Potter, who completed the RCIA last spring, is in charge of the market.

Potter, who also is a Knight of Columbus, said the Knights have "helped out a lot" with the market, which serves as a gathering point for all people of the parish. "A lot of good fellowship comes out of it," Wise said of the market.

The concept and logistics for the market are simple, and Wise says they could be replicated at other parishes.

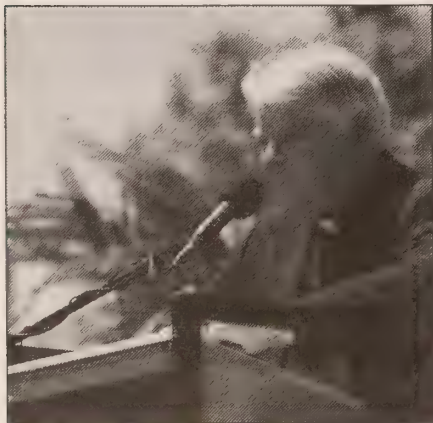
Gardeners bring their produce to St. Rose each Sunday morning and volunteers arrange it on the tables outside the parish's fellowship room. Even if they don't have a vegetable garden, parishioners can donate baked goods or fresh flowers to the market. Parishioners take what they want and leave a donation of any amount in the jar.

The proceeds are donated to the parish to be used for a variety of ministries, including youth ministry, the Haiti Parish Twinning Program and others. Last year, in a four-week period, the market raised about \$1,000 for the parish.

The spirit of the market is "if you have something, you contribute," said Father Kallarackan. "If you need it, take it."

Dr. Bob Dray, one of the biggest contributors to the market, farms about one acre on his 50-acre lot.

"I think this parish has a lot of good community outreach," Dray said. "Father knows there are needs outside the church walls" and encourages this creative approach to social justice action.



CNS PHOTO BY TIM HUNT, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., speaks to members of the Notre Dame Response Coalition on the university's South Quad May 17. The rally was part of a demonstration against U.S. President Barack Obama as the school's commencement speaker and the recipient of an honorary degree.

Episcopal nuns, priest become Catholic

CONVERTS, from page 1

is discerning the possibility of becoming a Catholic priest.

In an interview with The Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, Mother Christina Christie, superior of the religious community, said the sisters are excited about joining the Catholic Church. The women religious have been studying the church's teachings for years, she said.

Two Episcopal nuns who have decided not to become Catholic will continue to live and minister alongside their soon-to-be Catholic sisters. Members of the community range in age from 59 to 94.

"For us, this is a journey of confirmation," Mother Christina said. "We felt God was leading us in this direction for a long time."

Once the sisters join the church they

hope to form the first diocesan institute in the archdiocese.

Diocesan institutes differ from religious communities of pontifical right, such as the Dominicans, whose governance model is under the authority of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Members of a diocesan institute are overseen directly by a diocesan bishop.

Chancellor Diane Barr said the archdiocese is working with the Vatican in developing the diocesan institute. Whether or not the order will retain its name also is being discussed, she said.

Wearing full habits with black veils and white wimples that cover their heads, the sisters have been a visible beacon of hope in Catonsville for decades.

The American branch of a society founded in England, the All Saints' Sisters of the Poor came to Baltimore in 1872. They have been at their current location since 1917.

In addition to devoting their lives to a

rigorous daily prayer regimen, the sisters offer religious retreats, visit people in hospice care and maintain a scriptorium where they design inspirational religious cards.

Throughout its time in Baltimore the order has followed its charism, which focuses on hospitality. The order has ministered with Baltimore's poor, children with special needs and AIDS patients. Together with Mount Calvary Church, an Episcopal parish in Baltimore, the sisters co-founded a hospice called the Joseph Richey House in 1987.

Orthodoxy and unity were key reasons the sisters were attracted to the Catholic faith. Many of them were troubled by the Episcopal Church's approval of women's ordination, the ordination of a gay bishop and what they regarded as lax stances on moral issues.

"We kept thinking we could help by being a witness for orthodoxy," said Sister Mary Joan Walker, the community's archivist.

Mother Christina said that effort "was not as helpful as we had hoped it would be."

"People who did not know us looked at us as if we were in agreement with what had been going on (in the Episcopal Church)," she said. "By staying put and

not doing anything, we were sending a message which was not correct."

Before deciding to enter the Catholic Church, the sisters had explored Episcopal splinter groups and other Christian denominations. Mother Christina noted that some of the sisters had independently contemplated joining the Catholic Church without the others knowing. When they learned that most of them were considering the same move, they took it as a sign from God and approached Archbishop O'Brien.

"This is very much the work of the Holy Spirit," Mother Christina said.

The sisters acknowledged it has not been easy leaving the Episcopal Church, for which they expressed great affection. Some of their friends have been hurt by their pending departure, they said.

"Some feel we are abandoning the fight to maintain orthodoxy," said Sister Emily Ann Lindsey. "We're not. We're doing it in another realm right now."

The sisters have spent much of the last year studying the documents of the Second Vatican Council. They said there were few theological stumbling blocks to entering the church, although some initially had difficulty with the concept of papal infallibility.

In addition to participating in ordinary Catholic Masses, the sisters are expected to receive permission to attend Mass celebrated in the Anglican-use rite, a liturgy that adapts many of the prayers from the Episcopal tradition. Mother Christina said several archdiocesan clergy members, including Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden, have stepped forward to learn how to celebrate the Anglican-use Mass.

The sisters expressed deep affection for Pope Benedict XVI. The pope exercises an authority that Episcopal leaders do not, they said, adding that the unity Christ called for can be found in the Catholic Church under the leadership of the pope.

"Unity is right in the midst of all this," said Sister Catherine Grace Bowen. "That is the main thrust."

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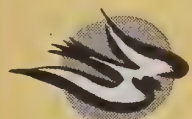
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Kids helping kids



COURTESY PHOTO

Children from the "Kids Helping Kids" group at St. Gabriel School sold lemonade and cookies around Charlotte during August to raise money for a kindergarten student at Catherine's House Inc., a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides transitional housing to women and women with children who are homeless. The total sales of \$988.39 exceeded their goal. They were able to purchase back-to-school supplies and clothes for the kindergartener and three additional children living at Catherine's House.

New leadership



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Pius X School in Greensboro has a new assistant principal. Ann Flynt, a native of New Jersey, received her undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and her Master's of School Administration from UNC Greensboro. Principal Anne Knapke says of her new assistant, "Ann has a broad knowledge base of the varying levels of developmental and educational practices and is a proponent of differential instruction and professional development. Her educational experience and personality will greatly benefit our school family."

Mrs. Knapke and Mrs. Flynt, both parishoners of St. Pius X Church, welcomed students back to a newly-renovated school Aug. 24. This is the third consecutive year of record student enrollment since St. Pius X School opened its doors in 1955.



COURTESY PHOTO

Altar servers Connor Guidry, Steven Knips, Kiley Gresser, Taylor Buck and Keri Kenkel are pictured with Fr. Patrick Cahill, Msgr. John McSweeney and Fr. Patrick Toole at St. Matthew School's first Mass of the year Aug. 26.

Hot shot



COURTESY PHOTO

Jack McArdle, a rising fifth-grader at St. Gabriel School, was national runner-up in the three-point shooting contest at the 2009 U.S. Basketball Association National Championship held in Myrtle Beach in July.

Jack made eleven three-point baskets in 60 seconds to take the lead in the contest, only to lose to a contestant from Richmond who made a 12th at the buzzer. He is a member of the QCAA FORCE 10-U Red AAU team of Charlotte. The team won its first five games playing in the USBA National Championship and finished second.

Bishop dedicates new school building

DEDICATION, from page 1

been accomplished at Sacred Heart Catholic School," said Bishop Jugis.

"The school families, alumni, parishioners and benefactors have worked together to present this beautiful new school building for the glory of God," the bishop said.

The new school is part of the new Sacred Heart Church campus, which consists of 107 acres of land — half of which is owned by the diocese — located off Jake Alexander Blvd. in Salisbury.

Along with the new school, the property features a cemetery, dedicated Sept. 1, 2007; and a church, which is scheduled to be completed and dedicated before the end of the year.

"I think we are moving forward with the mission of Sacred Heart School," said Dominican Sister Anastacia

Pagulayan, principal.

Sacred Heart School is an accredited SACS school with 187 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through eighth grades.

In keeping with the mission of diocesan Catholic schools, Sacred Heart School strives to proclaim the good news of the Gospel and to develop each student spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially, so that each is prepared to live and serve in a changing society as a self-respecting and responsible citizen.

"It is wonderful to see the united effort of parishioners, school families and staff members to provide the beautiful school building for the Sacred Heart students," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan schools.

"While the new paint, larger classrooms and extra storage are always nice, it is the sharing of Catholic education within those walls that speaks about the true meaning of Sacred Heart," Cherry said.

A firm foundation

Sacred Heart Church has had a school, off and on, since its inception in 1882. The first teachers were young women of the parish, who were aided by the pastor.

In 1910, under the pastorate of Father Leo Kuntz, an organized school was instituted and conducted by the Sisters of Mercy.

The convent-school of early days became a parish school in March 1942.

In 1949, extensive remodeling was done on the school and a new school building was built in 1965, where classes had been held up to the present.

Building a future

The new school facility, including a gymnasium and offices, is 30,133 square feet.

The school office and parish office are now located in the same building.

"I wanted to see a greater recognition of the connection of the church and school," said Father Putnam.

Along with classrooms for pre-kindergarten through eighth grades, the school features a science lab, technology classroom, two breakout classrooms, media center, gymnasium and cafeteria.

"One of the goals that we had in building it was that we wanted it to be state of the art — a 21st century school"

said Father Putnam.

All of the classrooms are equipped with the latest media delivery technology.

Perhaps the biggest highlight is the surrounding acreage and most notably, the grass.

"We're just excited that we have more space," said Mike Vaeth, parishioner and chair of the building committee.

"I have two older sons who graduated from the old school," said Vaeth. "They grew up in long pants with holes in the knees from falling on the asphalt."

Another highlight of the school is the gymnasium.

"We didn't have a gym at the old school," said Father Putnam.

In the past, gym time for basketball games was rented from a local YMCA and nearby middle-school.

The new gym has room for 600 people and will be used for parish and school events.

"We're planning to really utilize that gym for big events," said Vaeth, who mentioned that parish events were previously limited due to lack of space.

Along with the gymnasium and plenty of outdoor space, the new school facility will also feature a soccer field.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org

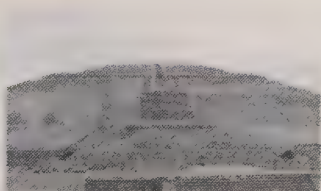
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PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Students, faculty and guests sing as Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses the altar during the Mass and dedication of the new Sacred Heart School building in Salisbury Sept. 1.

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Culture Watch

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Young authors hope their books help peers cope

Pocket-size books for faith answers, prayer, reflection

BY TRISTA TURLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New pocket-size books by two young Catholic authors are aimed at helping their peers put their faith into action and find answers to problems in prayer.

The first book, "The Radical Bible" by Kevin Ahern, is a compilation of scriptural passages, statistics and commentary by Catholic and non-Catholic contemporary thinkers. The selections address poverty, oppression and other major social issues the global community is currently facing.

"Keeping the Faith: Prayers for College Students" by Kerry Weber is a compilation of prayers designed to help college students cope with a variety of challenges ranging from homesickness to difficulties with a roommate.

Ahern, former president of the International Movement of Catholic Students, said he intends his book to be "a tool for personal and group reflection for those seeking to respond to God's radical call for reflection and action in the world." His book is a revision of a 1972 release of the same title.

Ahern told Catholic News Service that he received a copy of the original while working in Rome. He said the book — which like his was published by Orbis — served as a source of inspiration to him while he traveled with the student movement, but he felt that it could be improved to resonate with modern-day readers.

His version is "very, very different from (the original)," Ahern said in a phone interview. "I tried to add other quotes and other dimensions from Scripture that were more spiritual in nature."

Ahern hopes that the use of widely resonating Scripture passages will unite Catholics in spirituality-based reflection and social action.

"One of the big problems in the church today is polarization between those concerned with social justice and those concerned with spirituality," he stated. "I think Scripture provides a common ground."

In selecting which social issues to address in the book, Ahern said he wanted to focus on global affairs rather than interpersonal issues. "I wanted to address the issues that are affecting the entire human family," he said. "I also wanted to avoid getting into issues that would be too political in a sense."

Weber said she wrote "Keeping the Faith: Prayers for College Students," published by Twenty-Third Publications, while she was working as an editor

for Catholic Digest magazine. She said the concept of the prayer compilation originated as a group idea.

"We were looking to reach out to different age groups and thought this was a good idea (for college students)," Weber told CNS in a phone interview.

Weber said that she was chosen to write the book because she was only a few years removed from being a college student.

Her co-workers at Catholic Digest aided in the book's development by brainstorming prayer topics relevant to college students, but all the prayers in the book are her own original compositions. She said her writing was influenced by her own college experiences.

"I looked through some of my journals, some old photos and I tried to think about those experiences and what I was going through," Weber stated. "I really tried to draw from those experiences."

"Going through college for me was one of the first times that I was truly making decisions on my own to go to church, or to pray, or to really live my faith," she said.

Weber believes that college is a pivotal period of faith formation for many students. "It's a time when a lot of people are questioning and growing and deciding what they truly believe," she stated.

Weber graduated from Dominican-run Providence College in Rhode Island in 2004. This book is the first of what she hopes will be several published works. "I would love to publish another book for sure," she stated.



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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 13, 2009

September 13,
Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 50:5-9a
Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9
- 2) James 2:14-18
- 3) Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Struggle teaches God's grace, gifts of strength

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I had to practically sit on my hands to keep from sending a check. My grown daughter had just been laid off from her job at the same time her apartment lease was up and her roommate moved away. She called "to vent," she said, but she wasn't asking for financial help.

Nevertheless, throughout her brief lament I kept thinking it wouldn't faze my bank account to send a little money, and it would ease her burden considerably. Just a slight boost to buy her a little time would save a lot of stress. She'd pay it back later, and I wanted to think the pain and worry, really, weren't necessary.

Of course, I simply didn't want her

to have to suffer — even a little bit — if I could help it.

Luckily a cooler head prevailed: hers. "Don't worry, Mom," she assured me. "It's annoying. But I'll figure it out. I'll be fine."

Sure enough, after months and months of temporary employment, several unsatisfactory living arrangements and a meager pantry, things worked out. In the meantime, she was fine.

She understood that struggle is a necessary part of life, and through it she learned a great deal about the strength and gifts with which God had endowed her. Also, she experienced God's grace through helpful, loving friends and found joy even while enduring difficulty.

She more than survived. She grew — beyond what she could have if I had intervened to "save" her from discomfort.

In this weekend's Gospel, Peter tells Jesus that he knows he is the Christ. He knows he was endowed by God to bring salvation. But in his human heart Peter didn't want his loved one to have to suffer. For a brief moment Peter forgot to believe in God's almighty ability to overcome the suffering and anguish of this world.

Jesus set him straight saying, in effect, "I'll be fine." Then he told his disciples that to follow him, they too must endure necessary hardship with trust that God will save them and give them lives greater than the ones they will surely lose in the process.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-12

Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37; **Monday**, Colossians 1:24-2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday (The Nativity of Mary)**, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; **Wednesday (St. Peter Claver)**, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday**, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday (Most Holy Name of Mary)**, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 6:43-49.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13-19

Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35; **Monday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)**, Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Sorrows)**, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, John 19:25-27; **Wednesday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian)**, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Robert Bellarmine)**, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday (St. Januarius)**, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15.

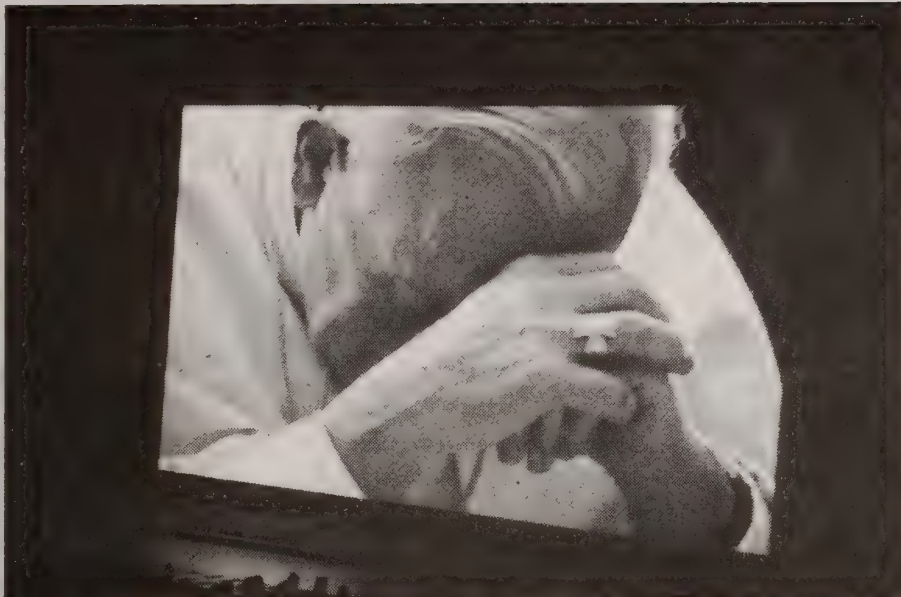
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CNS PHOTO BY GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

An image of the late Pope John Paul II is seen on screen during a documentary film on his life screened last year. The film festival in Miami, to be held this October, honors the values of the late Pope through the art of film.

John Paul II film festival planned for late October in Miami

Directors hope to make festival annual occurrence, include more forms of art and theater

BY JESSIE ABRAMS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The John Paul II International Film Festival is set to take place the last weekend of October in Miami, but co-director Frank Brennan said the organizers still have a lot to do before the event kicks off.

Brennan has been working alongside two other co-directors since March to put together the event. He said they hope to make it an annual occurrence. In the future, he said, he hopes the festival will expand to include other forms of art and theater, but this year he wants to keep it simple.

"For this year for us it's been: Stick to the films, stick to the festival, show the films," Brennan told Catholic News Service in an interview. "Show the art and then at the same time show how faith is applied through the films."

The biggest challenge for the team so far, Brennan said, has been dealing with time constraints. Most festivals, he said, take close to a year and a half to plan but these planners only allotted themselves nine months. Together he, his fiancée, Laura Alvarado, and Rafael Anrrich have been constantly picking each other up and keeping each other focused on their goal, he said.

The festival directors are searching for published or unpublished films that coincide with what they consider to be Pope John Paul II's three most important values: human dignity, the sanctity of life and Christian unity.

The festival is open to people of all faiths and, as long as videos promote one of Pope John Paul's values, filmmakers may submit them to the event.

Brennan said he and Alvarado are

both passionate about films and started a company together called 7eventhDay Films. Alvarado took an interest in theater when she was 9 years old. In 2007 she graduated with a degree in fine arts from the New World School of the Arts, a Miami conservatory. Since then, she has produced five independent films. Brennan said he discovered his passion for writing, directing and producing films as a freshman in high school.

Anrrich also found his passion for religious films during his first year of high school after experiencing a "deep personal conversion" while watching "The Ten Commandments." He now works as a therapist to children, adolescents and adults, but has wanted to pursue his idea of a film festival for at least four years, Brennan said.

With time and money short, only a small number of videos at the festival will have been specifically made for the event, Brennan said. The majority of videos that will be included have already been released, but have not gotten as much attention in Hollywood, partially because they lack expensive special effects, he said. These films have good substance but have had a hard time making money in Hollywood, he added.

Before July, the team struggled to find financial support, and even with recent donations Brennan said the festival was still in need of funding and sponsors. To show the festival directors' appreciation, Brennan said he would like to provide a ticket for one student from each of the Catholic schools in the area who exhibits a passion for any type of art.

"Youth is a big target in this," Brennan said.

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Learning the ropes

Youth ministry workshop ties in Bishop's introduction

At a full-day youth ministry workshop at St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin on Aug. 22, pastors, parents, youth ministry leaders and coordinators of faith formation discovered the three vital areas of youth ministry.

Sponsored by the Western Regional Office of Faith Formation and conducted by diocesan Office of Youth Ministry director Paul Kotlowski, this workshop illuminated three aspects of Bishop Jugis's Introduction Letter to the Diocesan Youth Ministry Handbook.

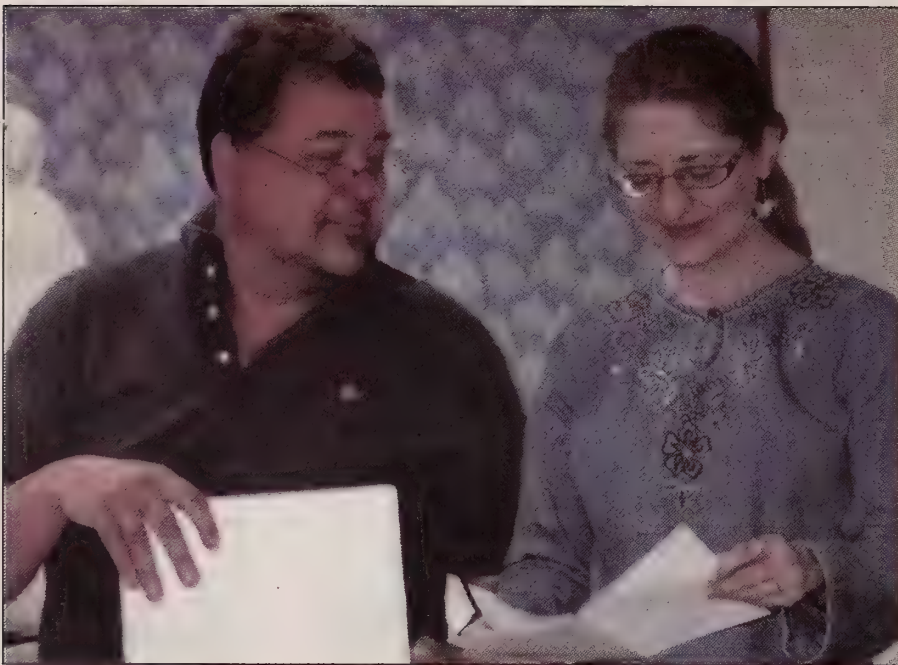
In his Letter, the Bishop described as vital three areas in ministry to youth: "The call to and promotion of holiness; the creation of safe and secure environments; and the formation of the ministers as persons commissioned to teach the Truth in Love."

With regard to the call to and promotion of holiness, Kotlowski cited

twelve spiritual disciplines essential to youth ministry. Groupings included the inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study, the outward disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission/obedience, and service and the corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

Kotlowski moved on to address concerns in the creation of safe and secure environments by referring to the policies of the Diocesan Code of Ethics, the Code of Ethics for Youth Ministry Leaders, and Protocols for Ministry to and With Minors.

Finally, to illustrate the formation of the ministers as persons committed to teach the truth in love, Kotlowski led the 18 participants in a reflection process upon "Catechesi Tradendae" (Catechesis in Our Time) by Pope John Paul II.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diocesan Youth Ministry Director Paul Kotlowski and Western Regional Faith Formation Coordinator Theresa Prymszewski collaborate on the Youth Ministry Retreat at St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin Aug. 22.

Sheets, socks and smiles

Diocesan church helps local charities

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The recent economic downturn and widespread decline in charitable giving didn't stop a local parish from giving big to local charities in need.

Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte recently collected 500 pairs of socks, 50 sets of sheets, and \$5,000 for Urban Ministry Center and the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

"In these tough times when we are serving so many, we are thrilled to receive this gift from St. Thomas Aquinas," said Deranda Metz, social services director for the Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte.

Urban Ministry Program Director Paul Hanneman agreed, stressing "We are very grateful for this gift in a time when our numbers have increased dramatically and the need is greater than ever."

"We wanted to help," responded Mark Nash, deacon at St. Thomas Aquinas church. "So we asked what was most needed and easy to collect."

Hanneman requested "good, clean socks. It's one of the items we need more than anything else." Foot problems can be a health issue for clients, who spend the majority of each day on their feet.

Metz cited clean sheets as an immediate need for the Center of Hope. She also stated that since Center of Hope clients may take sheets with them,

additional sets are always needed.

Helping Hands, the social outreach ministry for St. Thomas Aquinas, scheduled a speaker for each Mass the weekend of Aug. 15 and spread the word through bulletins for weeks prior to the collection.

The cart they placed in the vestibule was soon full of fresh white socks and twin-sized sheet sets. A free-will offering collected in a basket outside the church building totaled \$5,000, a surprising amount given the recent completion of the church's annual mission appeal and youth fundraiser.

Parishioners did not stop there. They also prepared a meal to feed approximately 350 at the Center of Hope Shelter.

The monetary collection was split equally between Urban Ministry Center and Center of Hope.

Urban Ministry Center will use its \$2,500 in its soup kitchen and for services provided to homeless clients. The Center of Hope will use its half to purchase needed shelter supplies, such as hygiene products and diapers.

Urban Ministry Center in downtown Charlotte is an interfaith organization dedicated to serving the poor and homeless with compassion and tangible help, including a soup kitchen and its Room in the Inn program that provides winter night lodging.

The Center of Hope on Statesville Road in Charlotte is a shelter for women and families serving over 300 individuals daily.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom McNamara and Kathy Sims, parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, share smiles and a \$2,500 check with Stacey Bergeron, director of operations for the Salvation Army Center of Hope, Aug. 27. The Center of Hope received the donation, 50 sets of new sheets and a meal to feed over 300. The Urban Ministry Center also received \$2,500 and 500 pairs of socks.

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An invitation to all

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I look forward to welcoming you to our Eucharistic Congress on September 25 and 26 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

The Eucharistic Congress is a time of spiritual renewal for the whole diocese. This is one important blessing we receive as a result of the congress. The congress inspires us and strengthens our faith.

A special enlivening of our faith takes place when we are gathered in such great numbers for this celebration. Even though the Catholic population of our diocese is only about 3 % of the total population, our coming together at the Eucharistic Congress reminds us that the Church is a big family after all, and that we have many brothers and sisters throughout the 46 counties of the diocese who share our faith.

Our faith and our love for the Lord are strengthened when we participate with thousands of our brothers and sisters in the eucharistic procession through the streets of Charlotte. Our faith is also strengthened when we participate with all our brothers and sisters in the eucharistic holy hour of adoration and in the vigil Mass at the close of the congress. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord's blessings abound as more and more people share in his graces: "Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God" (2 Cor. 4: 15).

Appreciation for the gift of the Eucharist

The Eucharistic Congress gives us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. This is another blessing we receive as a result of the congress. The celebration of the Mass is the center of the whole Christian life, as the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (n. 16) reminds us. The Eucharist constantly nourishes our faith and holiness. We constantly draw life from this living Bread, which is Christ himself. By participating in the Eucharistic Congress we grow in our appreciation for the great gift of the Eucharist, which then leads us to a more fervent celebration of the sacrifice of the Mass when we return to our home parishes.

Over the years I have been inspired by adults in our RCIA programs who have told me of their great desire to receive the Body and Blood of Christ once they join the Catholic Church. They already have a great appreciation for the gift of the Holy Eucharist, which draws them to the church. They understand instinctively that the Eucharist is the source and the summit of the Christian life.

Likewise, the Eucharistic Congress serves to increase in all of us an appreciation for our Lord's dwelling among us in this holy sacrament.

Zeal for the new evangelization

Another important blessing we receive from the Eucharistic Congress is increased zeal for the work of the new evangelization. Our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, and our present Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, have called us to evangelize our secular culture with the message of Christ. It is through our participation in the Eucharistic sacrifice that the Lord constantly enlivens us so that we can faithfully do his work in the midst of our secular society.

Pope Benedict XVI has pointed out that there is a strong connection between the Eucharist and the mission of the Church — that the stronger our Eucharistic faith, the stronger our commitment to Christ's mission. He wrote: "The Sacrament of the Altar is always at the heart of the Church's life: 'thanks to the Eucharist, the Church is reborn ever anew!' The more lively the eucharistic faith of the People of God, the deeper is its sharing in ecclesial life in steadfast commitment to the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples. The Church's very history bears witness to this. Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord's Eucharistic presence among his people." (Sacramentum caritatis 6).

The Eucharistic presence of Christ — his Real Presence — is the powerhouse of our evangelizing mission as the People of God.

See you at the congress!

There are many blessings we receive from the celebration of the Eucharistic Congress. The prayer card invites us to pray for the success of the congress. We pray that the congress will produce the fruits of spiritual renewal in all of us, a greater appreciation for the central place of the Eucharist in our lives as Catholics, and an increased zeal to do our part in the great mission of the new evangelization. These blessings and many others will be bestowed upon us by the good Lord.

I look forward to seeing you at the congress!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (far right) carries a monstrance in the eucharistic procession during the 2008 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte.

Prayer for the Success of the Eucharistic Congress

September 25 and 26, 2009

Diocese of Charlotte

O Jesus, who art really, truly and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament to be the food of our souls, deign to bless and bring to a successful issue all Eucharistic Congresses and gatherings, and especially the coming congress of the Diocese of Charlotte. Be Thou the inspiration of our labors, resolutions and vows; accept graciously the solemn homage we will render to Thee; send Your Holy Spirit to kindle the hearts of priests, religious, and all the faithful, especially the children, so that devout participation in the Holy Mass and frequent and daily Holy Communion may be held in honor in all the countries of the world; and grant that the Kingship of Your Sacred Heart over human society may everywhere be acknowledged to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, bless the Congress.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Patroness of our diocese, pray for us.

Saint Paschal Baylon, pray for us.

Saint Patrick, pray for us.



"The prayer card invites us to pray that blessings come to our diocese as a result of the congress," said Bishop Jugis. "This year's holy card depicts the famous painting by Fra Angelico, 'The Annunciation,' which reminds us of the congress theme: 'The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us.' At the mystery of the Annunciation, the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. In the mystery of the Eucharist, the Word continues to make his dwelling among us as he changes bread into his flesh and wine into his blood. Christ is really and substantially present in the holy Eucharist."

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Hot wings to heaven

"And he will raise you up, on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His Hand." That's the refrain from the very popular song, "On Eagle's Wings." It was the opening hymn for the funeral mass of Gloria Semler, who died on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mother (Aug. 15) — a celebration that commemorates Mary's entry into heaven. It's an image evoked in Chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation, which talks about a woman clothed with the sun and taken to safety, born on the wings of a great eagle.

Mrs. Semler's son was my classmate at the Pontifical North American College. I am so proud of how he handled the celebration of his own mother's funeral. It is, I'm sure, one of the most difficult, but beautiful liturgical celebrations he will ever celebrate.

Father Semler summed up the final life lessons his mother taught her seven children as she lay sick in bed. He said, "Mom taught us to be happy, and to live our life according to the call to be God's children. You can't separate the two." He spoke in a way that truly uplifted many people — their minds and hearts — to heaven. His words were truly like eagle's wings.

Food for thought

On a recent trip with Father Semler, I made hot wings. He said, as only a Texan can declare, that I made the best hot wings he has ever eaten.

Because I think a lot about food, I actually thought about those hot wings as he was giving his homily. Not because of the wings, but because of the songs that evoked images of the great wings of the eagle that brought Mary to heaven and the great wings of angels that protect us and shield us from sin. I thought about wings because, as humans, we're not supposed to have them. Instead we are supposed to be carried by the angels who do. And we get to heaven by the levity of our souls. But the dead weight of sin can make it difficult for the angels to carry

Guest Column

FATHER LEO PATALINGHUG
GUEST COLUMNIST



such a heavy load.

This recent funeral celebration was so prayerful and peaceful because Father Semler recalled how his mother died after confessing her sins, and that she received viaticum — the Eucharist as the "food that accompanies us and strengthens us" to heaven.

In other words, we get to heaven not because we will someday "grow wings." We get to heaven because God has given us winged assistance — angels. We need their help. But we also need to help them by not "testing our angels" by putting ourselves in unnecessary harm and weighing down our souls with sin.

Gloria's funeral Mass, celebrated by her son, was truly an inspiration for me, and for all of the people who attended. This celebration, around a sacred meal, left my soul feeling a little "lighter." And remember, a lighter soul makes it much easier for the eagle-like wings of angels to carry us to a better place — a place where death has no more sting and a place where tears are wiped away.

Father Semler is a real inspiration to me. As a way of sharing my support of him, I want to "dedicate" the hot wings recipe to him and his mother. Granted, these wings won't bring you to heaven, but depending on how hot and spicy you make them, these hot wings will make you pray.

*Father Leo Patalinghug is the author of the book, *Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life*. He will speak at the Diocese of Charlotte's 5th Eucharistic Congress Sept. 26. For his hot wings recipe visit www.gracebeforemeals.com.*

The purpose of work

Laboring to create a Christianized economy

Beyond having time off, enjoying cookouts and shopping for bargains, the time period around Labor Day is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the meaning of work.

If we don't sometimes think about the purpose of work, if we don't consider its divine origin and design, we run the risk of becoming cogs in the corporate wheel, buying unneeded things, making weapons of war, polluting the earth, becoming greedy and ultimately dehumanizing others and ourselves in the process.

From the beginning of time God worked, creating the cosmos. He exemplified for us the importance, beauty and wholesomeness of creative work.

Considering all that God made is good — especially human beings — and because God does not favor any one group of humans over another, the bounty of creation must be kept well-preserved and made available to all people, for all time.

But society's endless quest for profit, its insatiable hunger for more and more stuff at cheap prices, is an offense against the God-given dignity of countless men, women and even children.

The global economic Humpty Dumpty has fallen. And it appears that the world's political and economic powers are doing little more than trying to put this Humpty Dumpty back together again.

But like the nursery rhyme, it would be far better if all the king's men could not put their Humpty Dumpty back together again. Instead of throwing trillions of dollars away attempting to rebuild an ethically sick economy, they should be creatively laboring to build a system that works for people everywhere.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), writes about the absolute need for economic systems to be based on ethical values.

In addressing the crisis confronting the global economy, the pope writes,

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



"the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity."

The pope adds that food and water are the "universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination." Yet our ethically sick global economy ignores the sad fact that over 1 billion human beings lack adequate food and water.

And in the United States, still the richest nation on earth — at least for some — the gap between the rich and poor is greater than at any time since the Great Depression. Over 12 million children live in poverty.

The economy is morally broken.

The U.S. bishops, back in 1986, wrote a wise and compassionate pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy." It's still so relevant, it could have been written yesterday.

The bishops boldly proclaimed that "the time has come for a 'New American Experiment' — to implement economic rights, to broaden the sharing of economic power and to make economic decisions more accountable to the common good.

"This experiment can create new structures of economic partnership and participation within firms at the regional level, for the whole nation and across borders."

Let's do it!

Let's create a new economic American experiment based on Christ-like values.

Let's labor to create a Christianized economy!

Senator Ted Kennedy

In the hands of God

I have some problems with Fr. Byron's column in the Aug. 28 issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

I don't dispute that Sen. Kennedy was a popular political figure nor that his annulment gave him access to his faith.

The problem I have is Fr. Byron's profession that "he was a Catholic in good standing" and his inference that the Senator is now with his siblings in heaven (my impression).

Would I be a Catholic in good

standing if I openly supported the destruction of unborn life, even to a point where the stomach-turning partial birth abortion would be supported? I don't think so.

In his letter to the Pope, Kennedy asked for forgiveness for his shortcomings but at no time sought forgiveness for his failure to protect the unborn.

He bragged that he fought against the death penalty, but not the death penalty for the helpless unborn.

Letter to the Editor

As far as I am concerned Senator Kennedy did what was politically beneficial to himself despite how it would offend God.

Whether he is reunited with his siblings is now in the hands of that same God, fortunately not in the hands of Fr. Byron.

— John Trovato
Greensboro, NC

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Youth ministry: A lifelong vocation

Working together is the answer to new challenges

As I flew to Chicago recently for a youth ministry meeting, I wondered, "Why am I doing this?"

During my first pastoral assignment, I was in charge of youth ministry. I spent many evenings chaperoning dances. Then for five years I was a campus minister, living in a dorm with students who acted out all sorts of rites of passage.

During my postgraduate studies, I was once again in a dorm with young students.

Eventually I felt I had paid my dues in youth ministry, so I moved on to ministering to families and the aged.

That Chicago meeting dramatically changed my attitude, however. It helped me to realize that no matter our stage in life, youth ministry is a lifelong mission.

Why do I say this?

Between 2001 and 2005, the National Study of Youth and Religion found that 84 percent of Catholic youth see their faith as extremely to somewhat important. The survey was funded by the Lilly Endowment under the direction of Christian Smith, professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, and Lisa Pearce, assistant professor of sociology

at the University of North Carolina.

The survey's results are good news. But what is disturbing is that a significant number of Catholic youth cannot verbalize what their faith is. The concepts found in our creed are either foreign to them or vaguely understood.

Furthermore, today's youth are exposed to drugs more than generations before them, are increasingly raised by a single parent and live in a highly stimulated culture that often nullifies any taste for life-giving reflection and contemplation.

New challenges face youth. How do we attract Hispanic youth, get on the wavelength of African-Americans and relate to Middle Eastern cultures? What in Catholic liturgies needs re-examination to reflect our multicultural church?

It has been proven that those who cohabit before marriage have a greater probability of divorce. This is a critical message that is vital for youth to help them enter wholesome marriages.

The aforementioned is only the tip of the iceberg of youth issues.

Youth ministry is not solely about

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



people getting a degree in this field and working with youth. For it to be successful, parents, priests and the entire parish community need to be involved.

But how do we accomplish this with both parents working and priests keeping a greater distance from youth after the news of sex abuse scandals?

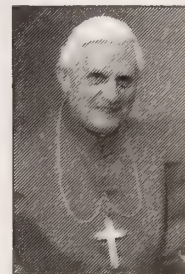
How do we come together in a spirit that says, "We are all in this together and need to roll up our sleeves for the task"?

As these questions buzzed around in my head on my return from Chicago, they reminded me that we never pay our dues fully when working with youth. Youth ministry is a lifelong vocation.

Pope says people must become more humble, less materialistic

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world full of vice and sin, people need to radically change their lives, becoming more humble and less materialistic, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience Sept. 2.

The pope, resuming a series of audience talks about influential Christian writers from the Middle Ages, focused his catechesis on St. Odo, a 10th-century Benedictine monk and abbot of Cluny, France.

The pope flew to the Vatican by helicopter from Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, to lead the general audience in the Paul VI hall before about 8,000 pilgrims from around the world.

Pope Benedict looked relaxed and well-rested, though his right hand and wrist were notably swollen. He continued to greet visitors and well-wishers with his left hand, and had a friendly laugh greeting a priest whose left arm and hand were immobilized by a cast and sling.

The pope fell and broke his wrist July 17. Doctors performed minor surgery to stabilize and join the ends of the dislocated broken bones with wires later that day. The cast and wires from the pope's wrist were removed Aug. 21; doctors said the healing process went perfectly and that the 82-year-old pope would recover the use of his hand after completing a program of rehabilitation.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our catechesis today deals with another great monastic figure of the Middle Ages, Saint Odo of Cluny. Attracted by the Benedictine ideal, Odo became a monk, and later the second abbot, of Cluny. At the beginning of the ninth century, Cluny was the center of an influential movement of Church reform, and Odo, by his example and teaching did much to further this spiritual renewal throughout Europe. His writings reveal how deeply he was influenced by the monastic virtues of contemplation, detachment from this world and longing for the world to come. Odo was particularly devoted to the Eucharist, emphasizing the real and substantial presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine. This conviction of faith led him to work for the reform of the clergy and to stress the need for a worthy reception of the Sacrament. An authentic spiritual guide for his troubled times, Odo blended the personal austerity of a great reformer with a constant and joyful contemplation of Christ's infinite mercy.

Learning how to talk

Six steps to better communication for tough conversations

Growing up is hard to do, especially if you're speech-delayed, meaning that you like to bolt before the tough conversations happen.

Having been raised in a dysfunctional family with the rest of America, I didn't exactly learn good communication skills at home. I couldn't articulate what I wanted or needed without a good silent treatment, screaming session or other manipulation technique.

But to keep friends and eventually win a husband, I had to learn how to talk. About the important stuff.

In their book "Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High," authors Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler offer several tips to help guide the communication-challenged folks among us. I've condensed and excerpted their advice below.

1. Start with heart. Remember that the only person you can directly control is yourself; focus on what you REALLY want.

People who are best at dialogue realize that not only are they likely to benefit by improving their own approach, but also that they're the only person they can work on anyway.

2. Learn to look. When caught up in a crucial conversation, it's difficult to see exactly what's going on and why. When a discussion starts to become stressful, we

often end up doing the exact opposite of what works.

To break from this insidious cycle: Learn to look at content and conditions, look for when things become crucial, learn to watch for safety problems, look to see if others are moving toward silence -- or violence!

3. Make it safe. When you've made a mistake that has hurt others, start with an apology. You have to give up saving face, being right or winning in order to focus on what you REALLY want.

Sometimes others feel disrespected during crucial conversations even though you haven't done anything disrespectful. Use a contrasting statement that addresses others' suspicion about you. Clarify your real purpose.

4. Master your story. If strong emotions are keeping you stuck in silence or violence, try to do this: Get in touch with your feelings. Learn to accurately identify the emotions behind your story. Analyze your story. Question your conclusions and look for other possible explanations behind your story. Get back to the facts. Abandon your absolute certainty by distinguishing between hard facts and your invested story. Watch too for clever stories. "Victim," "villain" and "helpless" stories sit at the top of the list.

5. State your path. When you have a tough message to share or when you

Our Turn

THERESE J.
BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



are so convinced of your rightness that you may push too hard, remember to STATE your path: Share your facts. Tell your story. Ask for others' paths. Talk tentatively (state your story as a story; don't disguise it as a fact). Also encourage testing; that is, make it safe for others to express differing or even opposing views.

6. Explore others' paths. To encourage the free flow of meaning and help others, start with an attitude of curiosity and patience. Then use four powerful listening skills:

— Ask. Start by simply expressing interest in the other person's views.

— Mirror. Increase safety by respectfully acknowledging the emotions people appear to be feeling.

— Paraphrase. As others begin to share part of their story, restate what you've heard to show that it's safe for them to share what they're thinking.

— Prime. Take your best guess at what they may be thinking and feeling.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



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- Keynote Speaker – Immaculée Ilibagiza
- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

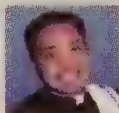
• Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Brother Milton Lopez
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

K-5 TRACK



Rob Evans
"The Donut Man"

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Perspectives

Learning from St. Francis
de Sales; Catholic points in
healthcare reform; leaving
behind material things

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Living proof

*Woman's tale of faith,
prayer and survival*

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —
Immaculée Ilibagiza is living
proof of the power of prayer.

A survivor of the 1994
Rwandan genocide, she lived
for 91 days in a cramped
bathroom with seven other
women.

Ilibagiza, a Catholic, said
it was prayer that gave her the
strength to persevere while
men with machetes ravaged
the village around the women
and even searched for them in
the home where they were in
hiding.

She will share her story
of faith and survival at the

See SURVIVAL, page 5

Reason to celebrate



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, jubilarians and concelebrating priests are pictured during the eucharistic prayer at the Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Sept. 8.

Priests honored at Jubilee Mass

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Nine
priests celebrating jubilee
anniversaries were recognized
during a Mass at St. Patrick
Cathedral in Charlotte Sept. 8.

The jubilees, or special
anniversaries, mark 25-, 50-,
55- and 60-year milestones of
service to the priesthood.

Celebrating 60 years are
Father Charles Reese and
Benedictine Father Matthew
McSorley; 50 years is Father
Gabriel Meehan; and 25 years
are Conventional Franciscan
Father Jude DeAngelo, Father
Peter Fitzgibbons, Father Paul
Gary, Father Thomas Kessler,
Father Philip Kollithanath and
Father John Tuller.

"Our parishioners look
for their priests to be authentic
witnesses of Christ," said
Bishop Jugis during his homily.

See JUBILEE, page 9



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELLEMORE

Participants in a Living Your Strengths small group open their meeting in prayer at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 10. Small groups like this one serve as a social gathering with the purpose of helping parishioners connect to their parish community and learn more about their individual strengths.

Keeping the Faith

*Grassroots movement measures, enhances
active parishioner base*

BY
HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — How
connected do you feel to your
parish?

If you have ever wondered
if there is more to life as a
registered Catholic than regular
tithing, attending Sunday Mass,
and logging service hours, then

you are not alone.

Eleven parishes across the
Charlotte diocese have dipped
their toes in a study developed
by the Gallup Organization to
measure that intangible thing
called faith and form action
plans to strengthen community
bonds.

See STRENGTHS, page 7

Advocacy applied beyond annulments

*Deacon candidates,
wives to study advocacy
throughout parish life*

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — How
does advocacy, the process
of developing a case for a
marriage annulment in the
Catholic Church, relate to the

See ADVOCACY, page 12

Culture Watch

Reviving the rhythm in
Bangladesh; film on
St. Augustine

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Around the diocese

Bishop blesses church cemetery
and columbarium; new pastor
at Holy Cross Church

| PAGE 8

13 days until the

Eucharistic Congress
September 25-27

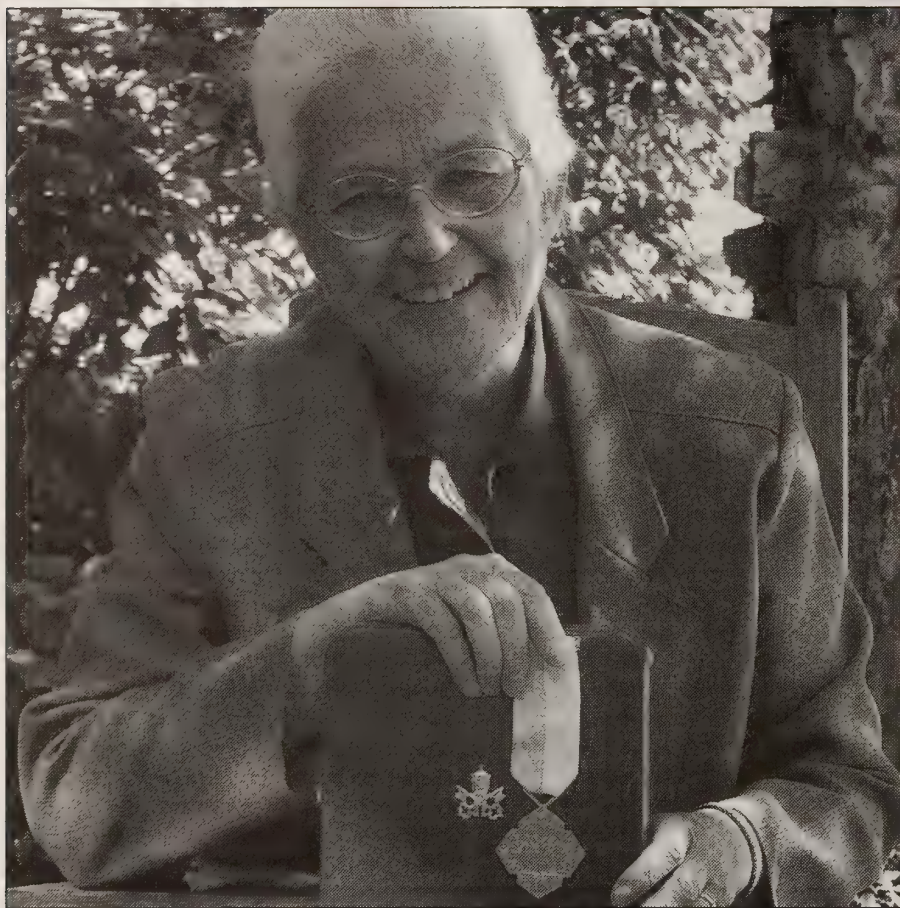
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See back page.

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PAPAL PLAUDITS



CNS PHOTO, COURTESY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Sister Sharon Holland, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, displays the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross in Monroe, Mich., July 13. She received the medal from Slovenian Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, at the Vatican June 26.

US nun receives papal honor for Vatican congregation work

MONROE, Mich. (CNS) — A Michigan nun who before her retirement in June was one of the highest-ranking women at the Vatican has received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, a papal honor recognizing her outstanding service to the church.

Sister Sharon Holland, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is a canon lawyer who was one of the first women to become a "capo d'ufficio," or section chief, at a major Vatican agency.

She spent 21 years as a section chief at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In that role, Sister Sharon responded to questions on governance from congregations of religious from all over the world.

Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the congregation, presented Sister Sharon with the papal honor June 26. Upon her retirement she returned to her congregation in Monroe.

In a July 14 statement, Sister Sharon described her ministry at the Vatican as "a wonderful experience in terms of being exposed to the universal church."

Although she didn't expect any kind of honor, she said receiving the medal

"was a very positive sign of my work having been appreciated."

In a March 2007 interview with Catholic News Service in Rome, Sister Sharon said she had seen an increase in the number of women working at the Vatican, "and I think it would be safe to say there's an increase in the level of work they're doing."

Women officials are more directly involved in laying the groundwork for decisions by higher-ups, she said.

"None of us make the decisions finally, but the better they're prepared, the more likely they are to move forward," she said.

In April of this year, the Catholic Health Association honored her with a bronze statuette and a board resolution calling her "a champion of American religious congregations and their ministries" throughout her time in Rome.

In 2007 she was awarded the International Medal from Vincentian-run St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y. In the citation for the award, presented in Rome where the university has a campus, St. John's called Sister Sharon one of the world's leading canon lawyers and said she "models what is best about religious life."

US bishops impressed with AIDS work in southern Africa

Delegation arranges funding for relief projects

PRETORIA, South Africa (CNS) — Members of a U.S. Catholic bishops' delegation visiting southern Africa said they were impressed with the church-run programs that treat and care for AIDS orphans and those infected with HIV.

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City said he was "particularly" "touched by the number of volunteers" involved in the efforts, noting that they "make it possible to get the services to the people" who need them.

The bishop was part of a U.S. bishops' delegation visiting southern Africa Aug. 26-Sept. 6. Participants visited Zimbabwe Aug. 26-28, then traveled to South Africa, where most remained until Sept. 6.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington who joined the delegation Aug. 31, and several others traveled to the landlocked kingdom

of Swaziland and saw households where orphaned teenagers are raising their younger siblings. They also visited St. Philip's Hostel for AIDS orphans.

"It was wonderful to see the courage of these children, and I am grateful that people in the U.S. have a role to play in helping them," he said, noting that this help "is a great blessing for everyone."

Swaziland has the world's highest HIV-positive rate.

Members of the delegation met with staff at the U.S. Embassy to Swaziland in Mbabane in an effort to arrange for U.S. government funding for church-run HIV and AIDS projects. The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, provides extensive funds for the AIDS projects run by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, which includes the bishops of Swaziland, South Africa and Botswana.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 or e-mail www.nclaoh.com.

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat for Young Adults in their 20s and 30s will be held in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning that will help you develop tools of reflection for living in the present for the sake of tomorrow. The retreat will be followed by Mass. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, call St. the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail yamretreat@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life presents *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. The series will take place once a month from August through November at Harper's Restaurant, 11059 Carolina Place Pkwy. Come and mingle

at 6:30 p.m., speaker will start around 7 p.m. The next session will be Sept. 17 on the topic "Finding Meaning in Your Work" presented by Deacon Mark King. For event details, visit www.meetup.com/youngadultlife or e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Blood Give-In will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the Parish Center Family Room Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sign ups will be in the Narthex the weekends of Sept. 5-6 and Sept. 12-13. Walk-ins will be accepted as time permits.

CHARLOTTE — The Fall 2009 Kick-off vigil for the 40 Days for Life will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. 40 Days for Life is a nationwide, pro-life campaign seeking to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful vigil outside of a local abortion facility. The campaign runs Sept. 23 through Nov. 1 and will be held outside of "A Preferred Women's Health Center," 3220 Latrobe Dr., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, contact Brian or Angela Williams at (704) 847-7311 or email angiegirl67@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE — A Post Abortion Support Group using exercises of St. Ignatius will be starting at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a 31-week program which follows the Liturgical calendar. The exercises will consist of meeting once per week in addition to being assigned daily scriptural meditations. The group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. in Room NLC 204, starting Sept. 23 and running through April 28. For more information, contact Christy at (704) 293-6602 or Andrea at (704) 996-4597. Confidentiality assured.

CHARLOTTE — Anyone interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order and how to become a part of this group is invited to attend an informational meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. There will be concurrent sessions in English and Spanish on Sunday, Oct.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 38

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Catholic parish joins Muslim students to help after Indonesian quake

We must help the people, priest says

TASIKMALAYA, Indonesia (CNS) — A Catholic parish in the predominantly Muslim Indonesian province of West Java is working to provide emergency aid to victims of the magnitude 7 earthquake that struck Sept. 2.

Humanitarian aid is not being adequately distributed to victims "so we must help the people" who have not been reached, Father Albertus Nugroho, a priest at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Tasikmalaya, told the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Parish leaders, representatives of the Indonesian bishops' charitable agency and a representative of the

Muslim Students Movement in West Java met Sept. 3 and agreed first to provide emergency aid, then to work on rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Parish leaders said they were told other parishes and the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services would send them aid to distribute.

Bishop Johannes Trilaksyanta Pujasumarta of Bandung visited quake victims in Tasikmalaya Sept. 4.

According to the country's National Disaster Management Agency's Web site, the quake killed at least 59 people and damaged more than 10,000 houses. More than 25,000 people were displaced from their homes.

10 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact David Romero at (704) 877-5505.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. for an hour of prayer, sharing and Scripture study in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. A six-week program on the Book of Daniel in conjunction with the First and Second Book of Maccabees will take place once a week Aug. 25 through Sept. 29. The program will review the history of Israel in the centuries before the Lord's coming. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — Free *Spanish classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., every Thursday for eight weeks beginning Sept. 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Beginner and advanced classes are open to everyone and class materials are furnished. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Dr. Kwan at Hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a *diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park/Campgrounds in Morganton, 7081 NC Hwy. 181 N., Sept. 19. The Grand Ultreya begins at 11:30 a.m. with Mass at 12 p.m. Lunch follows. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink; Cursillo will provide hamburgers/hotdogs. Other events include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks, and hiking/nature trails for children. The event ends at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Fabrizze at mfabrizze@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans of the Fraternity of St. Clare is sponsoring a *Blessing of the Animals* Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd. All caged or leashed pets welcome. For more information, call Anne Modrow at (336) 760-1938.

CLEMMONS — *Eucharistic Adoration* takes place every Thursday in the Curlin Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Carole at pinmoney@bellsouth.net.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — There will be a *kick-off meeting for 40 Days for Life* Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Jennifer Fogle of Salem Pregnancy Center will speak. All are invited. For more information call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

WINSTON-SALEM — *40 Days for Life*, a nationwide, pro-life campaign seeking to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful vigil outside of a local abortion facility, will be held in Winston-Salem Sept. 23 - Nov. 1. The campaign will take place on Maplewood Ave. near Planned Parenthood from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.40daysforlife.com/Winstonsalem.

WINSTON-SALEM — The 19th annual *Life Chain of Winston-Salem* will be held Oct. 4 on Hanes Mall Blvd., west of Stratford Rd. from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. For more information, call Donna at (336)-940-2558.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 18 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Margaret of Scotland Church,
Maggie Valley

Sept. 19 (5 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Episcopal calendar

Sept. 13 (2:30 p.m.)
Mass for the Heritage Society
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Sept. 16 (10 a.m.)
Back to school Mass for
Home School Association
St. Patrick Cathedral

Learning Eastern, Western spirituality aids Christian unity, says pope

Letter directed to inter-Christian symposium

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A better understanding of Western and Eastern Christian spirituality and doctrine will aid in promoting Christian unity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Common ground in Eastern and Western spirituality "is the valuable lifeblood for a broader relationship between Catholics and Orthodox," he said.

The pope's remarks came in a written message to Catholic and Orthodox participants in an inter-Christian symposium Sept. 3-5 in Rome. The message, addressed to Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was released by the Vatican Sept. 3.

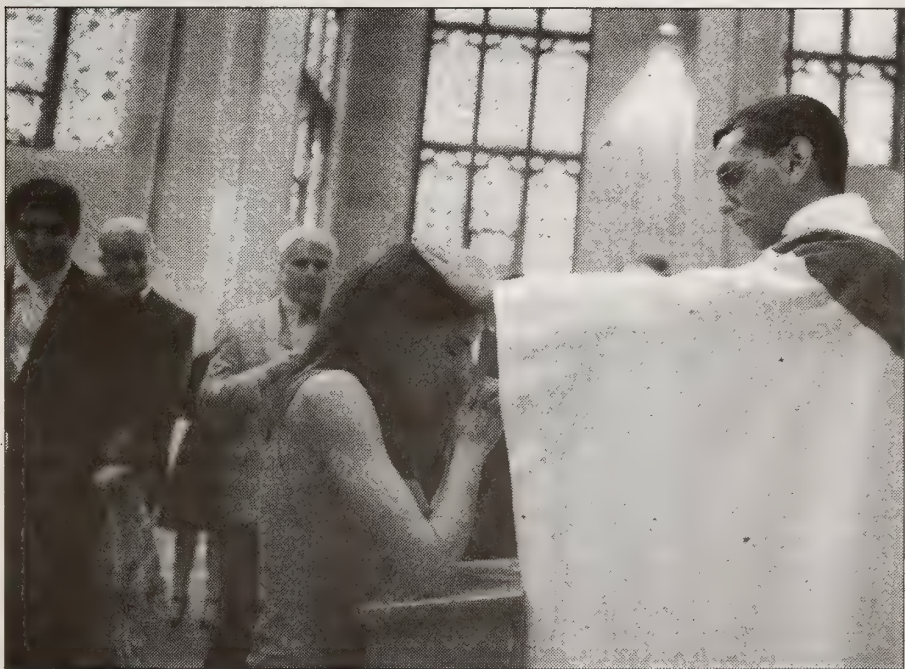
The pope said the symposium's focus this year on St. Augustine in Eastern and Western traditions was important for learning more about Christian theology and spirituality in the West and East and how they developed.

While the fourth-century saint and theologian was of fundamental importance in influencing theology and culture in the West, "the reception of his thinking by orthodox theology turned out to be rather problematic," said the pope in his written message, which was read at the symposium's opening session.

He added that a better understanding of "the doctrinal and spiritual riches that make up the East and West's Christian heritage becomes indispensable not only for enhancing their importance, but also for promoting a better, reciprocal appreciation among all Christians."

The inter-Christian symposium was sponsored by the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality of Rome's Antonianum University and the department of theology at Aristotle University in Salonika, Greece. The symposiums, which began in 1992, are held alternatively in Italy and Greece.

Serra Supports Priesthood Increase



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Father Brian Carpenter offers a blessing to his sister, Kimberly Carpenter, following his ordination Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, N.Y., June 6. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, keynote speaker Aug. 30 at the 67th Serra International Convention in Omaha, Neb., said the lay faithful of the church have a duty to nurture vocations to the priesthood.

67th Serra international convention promotes sacramental priesthood

Laypeople have duty to nurture vocations, says Archbishop Dolan

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) -- New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, keynote speaker Aug. 30 at the 67th Serra International Convention in Omaha, said the lay faithful of the church have a duty to nurture vocations to the sacramental priesthood.

"Ordained priests have the duty to call forth the gifts of the lay faithful as they share in the role of Jesus of teaching, serving and sanctifying," Archbishop

Dolan said. "And the lay faithful have the duty to take care of vocations to the sacramental priesthood."

The archbishop is the episcopal adviser to the Serra Club, an international organization that promotes and fosters vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. He was one of several speakers at the convention held at Omaha's Qwest Center Aug. 27-30 and attended by more than 500 people.

Learning how to lead



COURTESY PHOTO

New student council officers at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro were installed in a ceremony following the weekly school Mass Sept. 2. These students in fourth through eighth grades will hold office during the 2009-2010 school year.

The mission of the council is to assist in carrying out the religious, social, academic and administrative programs concerning students as well as plan social functions and raise funds for charities. Once per month, the council sponsors a casual dress day for which each student pays \$1 to dress out of uniform. These funds go toward charities selected by the elected council. In addition, the council collects canned food for Urban Ministry, an ecumenical outreach agency in Greensboro that provides crisis intervention and emergency services through the basics of food, shelter, and clothing. The total for the 2008-2009 school year Urban Ministry donation reached more than 1,200 pounds.

Catholic cheers



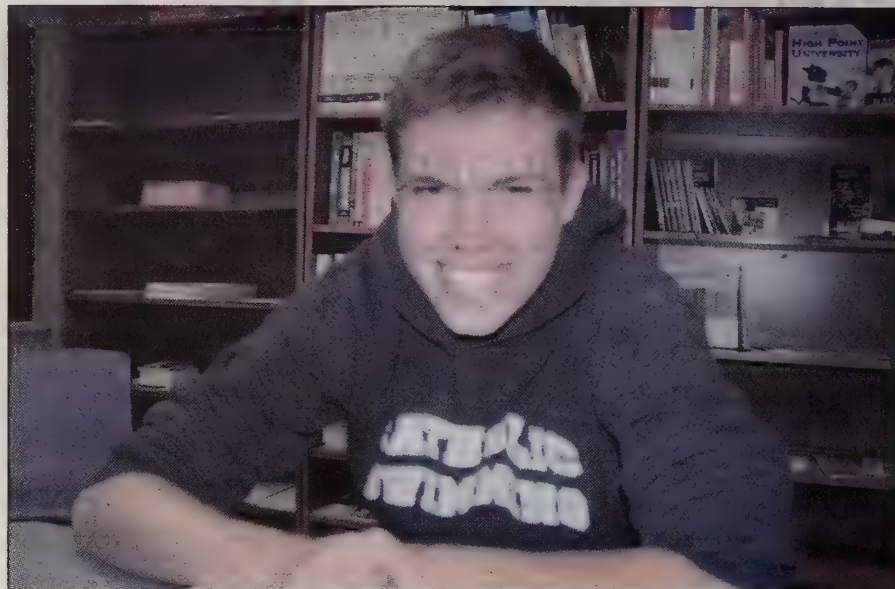
COURTESY PHOTO

Participants of the Charlotte Catholic High School cheerleading camp are pictured with Jennifer Healy, CCHS dance and cheer director, and the current high school team. Most campers came from Holy Trinity Middle School and St. Matthew and St. Gabriel elementary schools.

During the camp, which was held June 15-19, future Cougars split into two sessions according to skill level and learned CCHS cheers, dance routines, and stunts. The week culminated with a performance for the 'little Cougars' parents and a performance at this year's first CCHS home football game while partnered with the CCHS team.

Healy says, "It was a wonderful way to invite our Catholic youth here to share in our programs in hopes to encourage more participation in our future cheer and dance teams." Casey Corser, whose daughter assisted with the camp, was impressed by the involvement of the CCHS dance and cheer team members. "These young ladies truly emulated all that we as parents hope our children will become; genuinely kind, caring, enthusiastic, and willingly sharing their time and talent!"

Perfect score



COURTESY PHOTO

Anthony Palillo, son of Anthony and Carol Palillo and a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, was the only college-bound student in North Carolina and one of 84 in the U.S. and abroad to achieve a 36, the highest possible composite score, on the June 2009 national test administration of the ACT. While the number of students earning a score of 36 varies from test to test, less than one-tenth of one percent achieve the top score nationally.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. For purposes of comparison, the average composite score for the national high school graduating class of 2008 was 21.1 out of 36. Some students also take ACT's optional Writing Test, but the score for that test is reported separately and is not included in the ACT composite score.

In a letter recognizing this exceptional achievement, ACT Chief Executive Officer Richard L. Ferguson pointed out that Anthony should have a choice of the widest possible range of future educational options. ACT scores are accepted by all U.S. colleges and universities.

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Bishop McGuinness is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this school year and we are looking for former faculty and staff members. You are a very important part of the school's history and we would love for you to attend some of our events and join in the celebration. If you taught or worked at Bishop McGuinness High School please contact the school's Advancement Office at 336-564-1009 or send an email to ps@bmhs.us to provide us with your current contact information (mailing address, phone number, email address). We look forward to hearing from you! Bishop Pride!!!

FROM THE COVER

Woman's tale of faith, prayer and survival

SURVIVAL, from page 1

Diocese of Charlotte's fifth Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25 and 26.

In an interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Ilibagiza talked candidly about the power of prayer in her life and the importance of forgiveness.

Overcoming fear

During the first week of hiding, Ilibagiza found herself struggling with the reality of her situation. The town where she was, once loved had suddenly turned against her.

Hiding in the bathroom with the other women, "I thought I would go crazy," she said. "I was hungry, fearful, my stomach was aching."

During the second week the killings began. People flocked to stadiums for protection. But no one was safe.

"They were going home by home," said Ilibagiza, "They threw hand grenades

"Anytime I prayed I felt so strong, but the moment I let go the fear would become overwhelming."

— Immaculée Ilibagiza

into the stadiums."

They came to the house where she was hiding and searched for two hours.

It was then that she truly began to rely on God.

"When I realized that God was listening in our hearts, I started to pray every second of the time I was in the bathroom," Ilibagiza said. "I prayed the rosary over and over and over and over."

"Prayer was everything to me," she added.

At first, prayer was a way of keeping her mind off of the fear.



COURTESY PHOTO

Immaculée Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, will speak at the Diocese of Charlotte's fifth Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25 and 26.

"Prayer, in that way, was like food — food and water to drink," she said.

Gradually, she took her prayers deeper by meditating on the words. She began to not only say the words, but to really think about what she was saying.

"For every mystery I went back to the Bible and read," said Ilibagiza.

"Anytime I prayed I felt so strong, but the moment I let go the fear would become overwhelming," she said.

Ilibagiza estimates that during the 91 days she was in hiding she prayed approximately 27 rosaries a day.

Sometime she struggled with the words of the prayers.

"When you are praying the rosary, you must repeat those words, 'forgive us as we forgive,'" said Ilibagiza. "At one point I stopped saying that part of the prayer."

But then she understood, "These are Gods words. You can't change them, you can't edit them. That's when I realized I

have to let it go, I have to forgive, I have to understand."

A new beginning

In 1998, Ilibagiza immigrated to the United States. While working for the United Nations she was encouraged by co-workers and friends to write down her story.

That effort became "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust."

"When I was writing this book, everything was against me," she said. "I had never met an author of a book before I wrote the book. I met the publisher three days after I finished."

Today Ilibagiza travels the world spreading her message of peace, faith and forgiveness.

She uses her speaking engagements as opportunities to talk about the power of prayer, even when she is speaking at nonreligious events.

"When I am given a chance to talk to people who don't believe in God," she said, "I try to teach them about the rosary."

"God has so many ways of using his people," said Ilibagiza. "We can only wish that a little drop of his Word can come through."

When she speaks at the upcoming Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte, Ilibagiza said she hopes to share a message of forgiveness.

"I want people to know that our healing is from God," she said. "I have gone through it, I have seen his hand."

"I want to remind the people, no matter how bad it is to hold on to God," said Ilibagiza. "There will be betrayals, there will be injustice, there will be all kinds of evil, but if you hold onto God and Our Lady and Jesus, they will walk with you."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



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7 pm Friday, October 16 to

3 pm Saturday, October 17

Father Paul Maier

Christian spirituality has incorporated Enneagram spirituality for many centuries into our prayer and reflection. This retreat will provide further exploration of this valuable tool. Father Maier is a Catholic priest of the Richmond, Virginia diocese.

Cost: \$35 commuters (Sat. lunch included)

\$70 overnight

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay challenges Maryland priest to 'throwdown'



In other Eucharistic Congress related news, Father Leo Patalinghug was featured on an episode of "Throwdown! with Bobby Flay" which aired on the Food Network Sept. 9. In the episode, celebrity chef Bobby Flay challenged Father Patalinghug to a fajita cooking contest June 8 in Emmitsburg, Md. The priest's "Grace Before Meals" movement is gaining in popularity with families, Catholics and foodies alike. Father Patalinghug will speak at the Diocese of Charlotte's fifth Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 26.

CNS PHOTO/COURTESY GRACE BEFORE MEALS

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Making a difference in the lives of children

Holy Angels receives "Good For Kids" award

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

ASHEVILLE — A local Catholic non-profit organization was recognized recently by the North Carolina Pediatric Society for its work in improving the health of children.

Holy Angels in Belmont was awarded the "Good for Kids" award at a luncheon in Asheville, Aug. 22. Over 200 North Carolina pediatricians were in attendance as Regina Moody, President/CEO and Dr. Ellis Fisher, Holy Angels Medical Director, accepted the recognition.

The award is given each year to recognize organizations that provide services to make a difference in the lives of children.

"We consider it essential to acknowledge and recognize the work of everyone who contributes to improved health outcomes for children and youth," said Steve Shore, executive director of the NC Pediatric Society.

Members of the award selection committee not only looked at the innovative and unique services that Holy Angels has provided for children with special needs but also the long history spanning over 50 years.

In the mid-1990s, the NC Pediatric Society established the "Good For Kids" award to recognize collaborative partners who are essential to helping pediatricians accomplish their work to improve the lives of children.

It is given to an individual or organization that exemplifies the mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics: 'dedicated to the health of all children.'

When asked about the recognition, Dr. Fisher stated, "It is a privilege for me to work with the staff of Holy Angels, where the focus is always about the children who live there and their special needs."

Dr. Docia Hickey, a neonatologist at Carolinas Medical Center and Holy Angels board member, nominated Holy Angels for this award.

Dr. Hickey is very aware of the difference Holy Angels continues to make in the lives of young children who are medically fragile, especially infants with very special needs.

Founded in the 1930's, the North Carolina Pediatric Society met primarily to get pediatric practitioners together for continuing education and fellowship.

Today, it has expanded its mission to include the formation of policy to promote the health, safety, and well being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults in North Carolina.

Holy Angels was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy. The private, nonprofit corporation located in Belmont provides residential services and innovative programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

Programs include the Morrow Center, four Community Group Homes, five ICF/MR group homes (Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded), Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in downtown Belmont.

ANGELS IN WAITING



COURTESY PHOTO

Herb Clegg, II, Past President of the North Carolina Pediatric Society (NCPS); Marian F. Earls, President of the NCPS; Regina Moody, Holy Angels president/CEO & Ellis Fisher, Holy Angels medical director (from left to right) bear broad smiles as they hold the "Good For Kids" award for Holy Angels in Asheville Aug. 22. The NC Pediatric Society awards "Good For Kids" annually to recognize those organizations that provide services to make a difference in the lives of children.

"Future Cougars" show school pride

St. Gabriel School families support CCHS



COURTESY PHOTO

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

St. Gabriel School students showed their support for Charlotte Catholic High School during the PTO-organized tailgate party in front of a large sign that read "St. Gabriel loves CCHS" and was signed by the students. More than 500 attendees cheered Charlotte Catholic High School coach Jim Oddo and his team during a game against Providence High School Aug. 28.

Coach Oddo did not disappoint as he led the team to his 300th victory in a three-overtime game. The final score was 48-47.

"The family tailgate was a wonderful gathering complete with food and fun for everyone," said St. Gabriel School parent Virginia White. "The kids loved showing their spirit by wearing red "Future Cougar" t-shirts and painting their faces with cougar paw prints."

Following his momentous win, Coach Oddo was named head coach for the 2009 Shrine Bowl.

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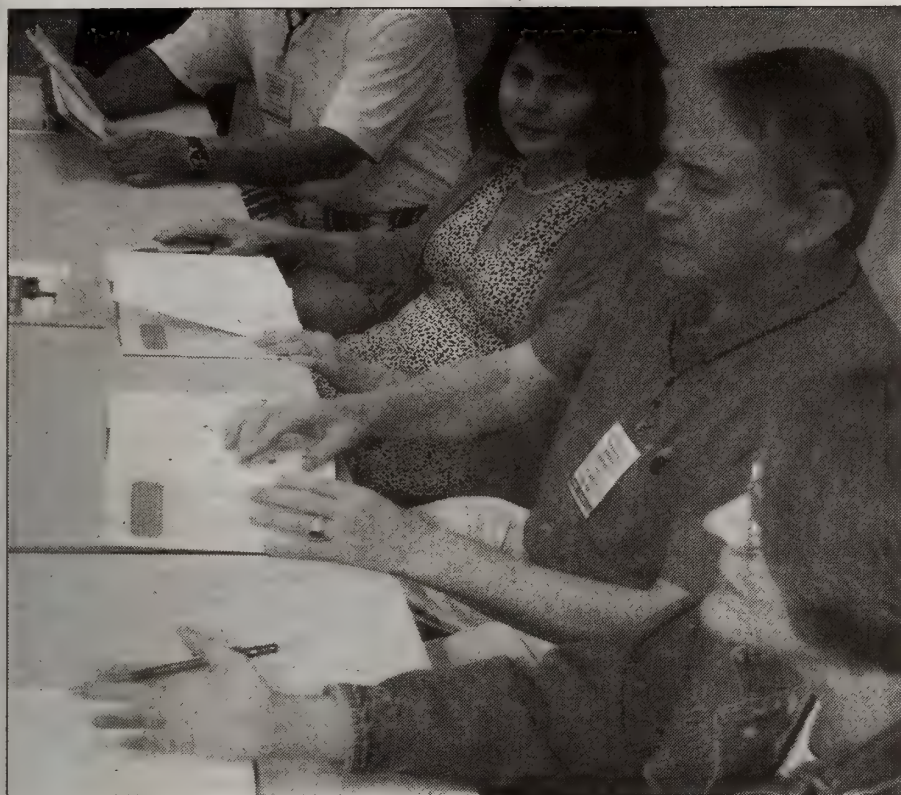
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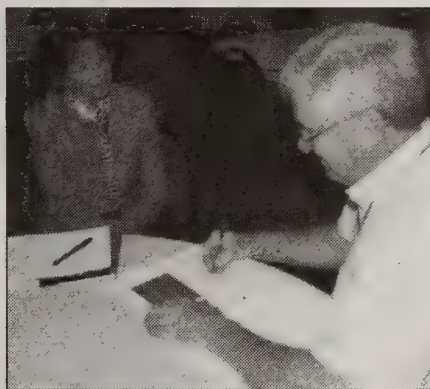
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FROM THE COVER



PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELLEMORE

Parishioners and leaders are busy increasing engagement at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 10. (Pictured above) Participants in a Living Your Strengths small group discuss engagement. (Pictured below left) Parish leadership prepares engagement parish expectation statements for parishioners to sign during Sunday Masses. (Pictured below right) Janet LeClair, head of the leadership development committee for St. Matthew Church and Don Garby, chair of the engagement commission for St. Matthew, strategize during the leadership summit planning session.



Grassroots movement measures, enhances active parishioner base

STRENGTHS, from page 1

What is the study?

Rosemary Keely, Living Your Strengths (LYS) coordinator for St. Mark parish in Huntersville, describes engagement as the umbrella and LYS groups as one spoke. LYS was developed by the Gallup organization in the form of a guidebook intended to help readers identify God-given strengths and use them to enhance engagement.

Keely said LYS programs are about "personal, person to person connections."

Meredith Ellisor, LYS facilitator for St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, agrees. "It has such practical applications for faith involvement, and moreover, it is a wonderful way to meet people."

The Gallup Organization, a group known for expertise in public opinion polling since 1958, chose the term 'engagement' to describe the degree of belonging individuals feel to their church.

In the fall of 2001, the Gallup Faith Poll and Congregational Engagement Index was launched. In 2002, St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. pioneered the application of survey results to improve engagement.

"I've been in corporate America thirty years and I've never seen anything like it," says Bill Conwell, engagement committee co-chair at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. "The beauty is that it is truly a grassroots movement to better connect individuals to the church."

Conwell said new partnerships are forming across parishes in the Charlotte diocese. Father Francis J. O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church remarked that he was "so impressed by Msgr. McSweeney's (pastor of St. Matthew Church) energized and blessed parish" that he wanted the same for St. Gabriel Church.

He adds that during a Gallup summit St. Matthew Church in May for the five dioceses of Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh, Savannah, and Atlanta, there existed a broader representation of faiths, including Protestant and Jewish.

Conwell says, "Part of the magnitude of these programs is the realization that this is an incredible outreach opportunity from an interfaith standpoint."

Engagement in the Diocese of Charlotte

St. Matthew Church is the first parish in the Diocese of Charlotte to become involved with engagement initiatives and LYS small groups.

The parish heard of the program through Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHOM) parish in Cincinnati, whose pastor spoke at St. Matthew Church.

"We found out about it accidentally, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, there are really no accidents," said Don Garby, chair of the engagement commission at St. Matthew Church, who added they saw the program when looking at the IHOM website. "IHOM was one of the earliest parishes to adopt the engagement concept. We visited them and that got us started."

In December 2007, St. Matthew Church conducted a congregational engagement survey. The parish plans to conduct a follow-up survey Sept. 26.

In the nearly two years that have passed, the parish has trained nine coaches to assist parishioners in deciding how to best use their strengths in the parish and counted approximately 600 parishioners and non-parishioners who have participated in a LYS small group.

In July, the church conducted LYS Level I Coach training and is currently conducting a Gallup Leadership Excellence program for two parochial vicars. St. Matthew Church is considered a Center of Excellence by the Gallup Organization for the southeast region.

How engagement works

The engagement process begins with a parish evaluation survey, intended not only to determine the level of engagement parishioners feel, but clarify expectations of two groups, church leadership and church members.

The LYS process begins with an online, 30-minute questionnaire, the result of Gallup Organization research with over two million people. The questionnaire determines an individual's top five strengths out of a pool of 35 possibilities.

Follow-up resources include small group studies and individual coaching. Small groups provide descriptions of strengths and brainstorm applications in the church and in daily life. Coaches, trained by Gallup, provide in-depth, personalized counseling on the implementation of an individual's top five strengths.

Spreading the word

As a regional leader in the Gallup engagement and LYS programming, St. Matthew Church considers reaching out to other parishes a priority.

A traveling troupe of parishioners that St. Matthew Church has named the "Roadshow" visits parishes across Charlotte to discuss Gallup programs and help train facilitators and coaches.

Other Charlotte diocese parishes have been implementing or considering the engagement program since attendance at the May summit. They include: the Basilica of St. Lawrence of Asheville; Our Lady of the Highways of Thomasville; St. Aloysius of Hickory; St. Elizabeth of Boone; St. Gabriel of Charlotte; St. Leo the Great of Winston-Salem; St. Mark of Huntersville; St. Paul the Apostle of Greensboro; and St. Benedict and St. Pius the Tenth of Greensboro.



Come to Celebrate and Learn

10th Anniversary Celebration
Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

Friday Evening, October 23, 6 - 9 pm

&
4th Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia
Saturday, October 24, 9 am - 3:30 pm

A combined event, sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, on the theme:

Partnering Ecumenically for Social Action and Justice

Site for Friday evening's activities - St. William Church in Murphy, NC
Site for Saturday's activities - Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC

The Friday evening and Saturday event features four Plenary Speakers presented below in order of appearance in weekend schedule:

Rev. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

W. Joseph Mann, Director, Rural Church Division, The Duke Endowment

Rev. Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA

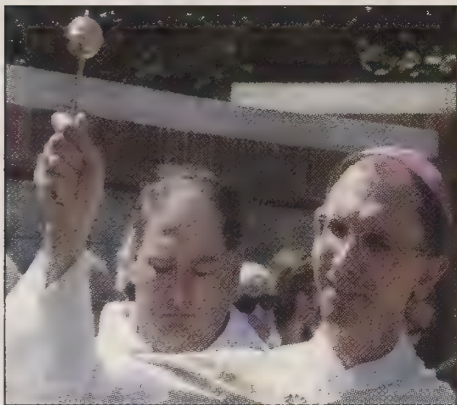
Rev. George M. Kloster, Pastor, St. William and IHM Catholic Churches

Go to www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for registration procedures and additional information, including Hinton Rural Life Center (HRLC) lodging opportunities. Since event meeting space is limited to 100 people, and lodging options at HRLC and area hotels during the autumn season are also limited, early registration is recommended.

Questions? Call 704-370-3225 or E-mail justicepeace@charlottdiocese.org.
Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203



COURTESY PHOTOS



Parishioners gather in front of the columbarium wall during the blessing of the cemetery and columbarium at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 5. The cemetery's capacity for traditional burial is 222 with 245 niches in the columbarium.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis performs the sprinkling rite during the blessing of the cemetery and columbarium at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 5.

A place for eternal rest

Bishop blesses cemetery and columbarium

BY
KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CLEMMONS — A new cemetery and columbarium was blessed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 5.

It is the fifth Catholic cemetery to be blessed in the Diocese of Charlotte in the past two years. The capacity for traditional burial is 222 with 245 niches in the columbarium.

Construction of the cemetery and columbarium began four years ago but came to a halt in 2006 when the diocese implemented a moratorium on constructing and expanding columbaria and conducted a study on the use of columbaria and cemeteries.

In March 2007, the Diocese of Charlotte issued its new policy on cemeteries and columbaria, which states parishes may offer at one location a resting place for both the bodies and the cremated remains of the deceased. Construction resumed in Sept. 2008 and was completed in June 2009.

The columbarium wall is located in the middle of the cemetery. The faceplates on the columbarium are granite and names will be laser engraved. At its center, the cemetery features a bronze-colored fiberglass crucifix.

At the close of the dedication

ceremony, Father Michael Buttner, pastor, expressed his appreciation to all who made it possible for the addition of the cemetery and columbarium to the parish campus. Immediately following the ceremony, the bishop greeted parishioners at a reception in the parish Family Center.



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A new shepherd

Bishop installs pastor at Holy Cross Church

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

KERNERSVILLE — Parishioners of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville welcomed a new pastor, Salesian Father Paul de Chant into their parish community Sept. 2.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presided at the Mass and ceremony.

Both Bishop Jugis and Father de Chant were further welcomed at a social gathering sponsored by the Columbiettes, Hispanic Society and Family Life held in Salesian Hall following the installation ceremony.

Father Paul de Chant succeeds Father Joseph Tustin, Holy Cross Church pastor of 11 years who has moved to a parish in Philadelphia, Pa.

Originally from California, Father de Chant was previously located at St. John Neumann Church in Reston, Va. This

was not his first visit to Kernersville, however, as Father de Chant conducted a mission trip at Holy Cross Church three years ago.

It was during that mission that Holy Cross Church parishioner and Knights of Columbus member Fred Hogan met Father de Chant. Hogan described him as a "man of character, a timeless priest."

Hogan said that Father de Chant has a black lab named Shadow who greets all parishioners after each Mass and is "a great hit with the youngsters and everyone else."

The nearly two-hour installation was "most impressive as well as informative," said Hogan, "especially for those who attended such a service for the first time." The program included the Knights of Columbus Council 8509 in full regalia.

Holy Cross Church was started as a mission in the early 1970s and has since grown to more than 1,000 families.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter Jugis smiles with Father Paul de Chant after his installation ceremony at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

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FROM THE COVER

Priests honored at Jubilee Mass

JUBILEE, from page 1

It was fitting that the Jubilee Mass was celebrated on the feast day of the birth of Mary, said the bishop, because like Mary, a priest is chosen for Jesus.

Of the factors that indicate priestly happiness, a good relationship with God is followed closely by a positive relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary, added the bishop.

At the end of his homily, the bishop thanked the priests for their devotion to the people of God in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Of the nine jubilarians, four were in attendance at the Mass. The Catholic News & Herald spoke with Fathers

DeAngelo, Fitzgibbons, Gary and Kessler about their 25 years of service to the priesthood.

Conventional Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo

Father DeAngelo is currently serving as campus minister at Wake Forest University, Salem College and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

He was ordained May 26, 1984 by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Albany, N.Y.

Father DeAngelo's first pastoral assignment was at McCorristian Catholic High School in Trenton, N.J., where he taught religion from 1984 to 1990.

He came to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1998 and has been serving as campus minister at Wake Forest University, Salem College and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in

Winston-Salem ever since.

"I just really love being a priest," said Father DeAngelo, who said the most important part of his ministry is the celebration of the Mass. He also enjoys the "Franciscan flavor of preaching" and the "privilege of walking with God's people."

His advice to seminarians and new priests is two-fold: First, "Dedicate everything you do to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. That's where your spirituality as a priest has to come from." Second, "Listen to your people in your parishes. They are filled with wisdom and the power of Christ."

Father Peter Fitzgibbons

Father Fitzgibbons is the pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle where he has been for the past five years. Father Fitzgibbons was ordained at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 9, 1984.

His first pastoral assignment was at the cathedral, where he served as assistant rector. During the past 25 years he has served throughout the Diocese of Charlotte and around the world as an Army chaplain.

In June 1989, Father Fitzgibbons was released from the diocese by Bishop John F. Donoghue for service in the Army. From 1989 to 1996, he was stationed at various bases in North Carolina as well as in the Persian Gulf, Korea and the Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp in Cuba.

In 1996 he returned to the diocese of Charlotte. He served in the Army Reserve and was called to active duty in 2003. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003-2004.

The two things Father Fitzgibbons enjoys most about being a priest are celebrating Mass and administering the sacraments.

"That's why we were ordained," he said.

Reflecting on his time in the Diocese of Charlotte, Father Fitzgibbons spoke fondly of friendships with his brother priests.

"We have great priests here," he said, and "I'm impressed by the younger priests." His advice to new priests and seminarians: "A Holy Hour every day."

Father Paul Gary

Father Gary is the pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. He was ordained by Bishop Michael J. Begley at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Feb. 11, 1984.

His first assignment was serving as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

"I've enjoyed everything about being a priest," said Father Gary. "Visiting the sick, the school Masses, helping people, preaching, confession, and celebrating Mass."

During his 25 years as a priest in the diocese one of the most notable changes Father Gary has seen is the growing number of Catholics in the area.

His advice to new priests or seminarians: "Be prayerful and love the church. Love the people of God and do your best to serve them."

Father Thomas Kessler

Father Kessler is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. He was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown, Pa. on May 12, 1984.

Father Kessler spent the first years of his ministry in Pennsylvania. Then, in 1988 he received permission to serve as a missionary priest in Bolivia.

He served in Bolivia for five years before returning to Pennsylvania.

In 1999 his bishop lent him to Diocese of Charlotte, where he was assigned to St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton for three years.

In 2002 he became incardinated as a priest for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Throughout his 25 years as a priest, Father Kessler has served as a parish priest, missionary, high school administrator and hospital chaplain.

The thing he likes most about being a priest is the diversity.

Through the diversity of his ministerial experiences, Father Kessler said he has been blessed to witness "the goodness of God and his people."

His advice to new priests and seminarians was two-fold: First, "Don't be a naive realist. When it comes to the mystery of God, there are things we don't know and you should know that." Second, "Know what you are doing. The sanctity of your office as a priest is important."

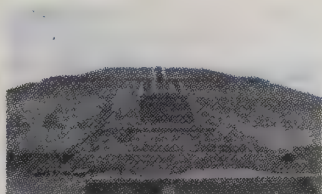
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PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Altar server Benjamin Bruck hands Bishop Jusik the censer as he prepares for the incensation of the altar at the beginning of the Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Sept. 8.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

BANGLADESH BEAT



CNS PHOTO BY ANJON A. NOKREK, UCA

Sohini Mree, 90, poses with traditional Garo musical instruments in August in Tangail, Bangladesh. U.S. Holy Cross Father Eugene Homrich has employed Mree as the curator of a small museum to preserve traditional Garo musical instruments.

Reviving the Rhythm

US priest in Bangladesh helps Garo tribe save musical instruments

TANGAIL, Bangladesh (CNS).—The beat of traditional tribal Garo drums is being heard a little more often these days in the Mymensingh Diocese in Bangladesh.

The playing of these and other traditional instruments is undergoing a revival thanks to the efforts of American Holy Cross Father Eugene Homrich, the parish priest of St. Paul's Church in Tangail, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Father Homrich, 85, has been working in this forested tribal area of northwestern Bangladesh since 1952 and has established a small museum to preserve traditional tribal musical instruments, some of which were at risk of being lost forever.

He also has employed four elderly Garo musicians to teach young people how to play the instruments, UCA News reported.

"After having spent over 40 years with the Garo people, I found that ... they have a rich musical heritage. So I've tried to be of some help" in this area, said the priest, who is known affectionately as "Achchu (Grandfather) Nokrek."

Father Homrich started collecting and preserving instruments in 1993. Since then, he has preserved about 300 instruments, spending almost \$3,000 in the process.

He said he had to obtain many of the instruments from India.

"My friends in America and some wealthy local and foreign donors helped

me to finance the scheme," said the priest, who speaks the Garo language and often celebrates Mass in Garo.

The museum also has a collection of traditional Garo household utensils, some of which are no longer to be found in the Garo community in Bangladesh.

Father Homrich has employed 90-year-old Sohini Mree as the museum curator and as a teacher of traditional Garo music to 25 young Garo people.

"I learned to play musical instruments from my father," said Mree, who used to be a farmer. He added that he never imagined he would become a music teacher.

Father Joyonto Raksam, an ethnic Garo, said Father Homrich "has revived interest in traditional Garo music, which is also a part of local Catholic liturgy."

Father Raksam, the rector of St. Paul's Seminary, said, "The Garo have hymnbooks and Mass books in their native language," so musical instruments are important for accompanying hymns sung during Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

He also said Father Homrich's initiative has helped reawaken cultural awareness among parish priests in the diocese. They, too, have started collecting and preserving traditional musical instruments in their own parishes, he said.

According to the Bangladesh Catholic directory, nearly 73,000 Catholics lived in the diocese in 2007. Most of the Catholics are members of the Garo tribe, reported UCA News.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 20, 2009

September 20, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Psalm 54:3-6, 8
- 2) James 3:16 to 4:3
- 3) Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Managing Stress, Demonstrating Compassion

BY
SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When we first got our now 7-year-old cat we named him "Mischief," and for good reason: He loved to chew things and caused frequent damage to blanket fringe, Venetian-blind cords and shoelaces when we weren't looking. It was an irritating quirk, but one that we learned to live with by protecting our belongings from his reach.

More antagonistic cat traits eventually surfaced when we had to leave Mischief alone in the house for extended periods of time. He "retaliated" by leaving us "surprises" where we couldn't fail to find them -- usually where we sat or walked. For a while, it seemed as though we were at war with our cat until we recognized that his behavior was directly related to his level of separation anxiety. The hostilities between us lessened as soon

as we responded compassionately and stabilized his environment.

In some ways, people aren't that much different from cats. Even well-trained, well-meaning folks can get cranky when exhausted or be callous toward others when anxious. Historians have written volumes about the recurrent patterns of war and bloodshed that occur when fear-based ideologies and severe levels of stress influence entire peoples to act against their common humanity.

Today's readings illustrate but a few of a gamut of passions that are responsible for such human carnage: resentment toward those who would point out our faults, jealousy, "selfish ambition," covetousness and lack of trust. The Gospel of Jesus provides a simple but paradoxical antidote: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Putting those words into action, Jesus carried this axiom to its ultimate conclusion when he carried his cross to Calvary.

Demonstrating compassion toward another human being can often be more challenging than showing mercy to one's cat. The same Jesus who died and rose for all of us impassioned, conflicted people gives us both the means and the will to be servants to one another.

Questions:

What human passion is most at the root of your unkindness to others? To whom do you need to demonstrate Christ's compassion today?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?" (James 4:1)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6-12

Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37; **Monday**, Colossians 1:24-2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday (The Nativity of Mary)**, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; **Wednesday (St. Peter Claver)**, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday**, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday (Most Holy Name of Mary)**, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 6:43-49.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13-19

Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35; **Monday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)**, Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Sorrows)**, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, John 19:25-27; **Wednesday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian)**, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Robert Bellarmine)**, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday (St. Januarius)**, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15.

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Message of truth lives in film

Pope praises film on St. Augustine as an authentic slice of life

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI praised a made-for-television movie dedicated to St. Augustine, saying the two-part miniseries “represents every aspect of the human life experience with all of its problems, sorrows and failures.”

Furthermore, the movie shows how “in the end truth is stronger than any obstacle,” he said Sept. 2 after viewing a shortened version of the more than three-hour-long film.

“This is the great hope that it ends up with: We cannot find truth by ourselves, but the truth, which is a person (Christ), finds us,” he said.

The movie, called “St. Augustine,” was directed by the award-winning Canadian director Christian Duguay, and was co-produced by Italian, German and Polish television companies.

Promotional materials said the miniseries was one of a number of made-for-television movies being produced, which were also to focus on Roman Emperor Nero, St. Peter and Ben Hur.

The pope said St. Augustine’s life seemed to end tragically because the city

of Hippo, “the world for which and in which he lived, ends and is destroyed.”

“But as it has been shown here, his message has remained and, even as the world changes, that message lives on because it is based on truth and guides charity, which is our common destiny,” he said.

The pope has often said his own thinking has been greatly inspired by the fourth-century theologian. When he was a young priest in 1953, the pope wrote his doctoral thesis on St. Augustine’s teachings, and his encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), owes much to the thought of this saint.

Born in North Africa, St. Augustine for many years ignored the counsel of his Christian mother and led a hedonistic lifestyle before converting and being baptized in Milan, Italy, at the age of 33.

St. Augustine’s spiritual awakening was not an overnight event but a continual process. The saint’s eyes were opened, the pope once said, by an awareness of God’s love, which is “the heart of the Gospel, the central nucleus of Christianity.”

IN THE CAMERA’S EYE



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

A Vatican cameraman captures Pope Benedict XVI during a weekly general audience at the Vatican in August. The pope’s encyclical “Charity in Truth” clarified his view on the influences of media.

Old school, but media savvy

BY RICHARD A. SOKERKA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PATTERSON, N.J. (CNS) — There’s no doubt Pope Benedict XVI is old school when it comes to his preferred means of personal communications — his passion for reading books and writing out his documents in longhand.

But that doesn’t mean he isn’t media savvy when it comes to today’s new communication tools and the power they have to serve the common good or promote immoral interests.

Toward the end of his encyclical, “Charity in Truth,” the pope included a short but firm analysis about the “increasingly pervasive presence” of modern media.

In his encyclical, the pope cautions:

“Just because social communications increase the possibilities of interconnection and the dissemination of ideas, it does not follow that they promote freedom or internationalize development and democracy for all.”

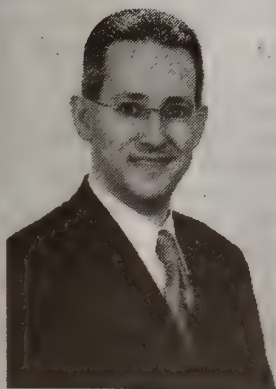
The pope also noted:

- The mass media are not morally “neutral.”

- The media have a large role in shaping attitudes that requires careful reflection on their influence, especially when it comes to questions of ethics.

While the pope has affirmed new media by utilizing YouTube videos and podcasts to evangelize, he knows perfectly well the downside to modern technology and will not hesitate to voice his concerns when they are warranted.

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ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of September, here is a look back as Our Lady of the Annunciation in Albemarle, the sole Catholic parish in Stanley County, celebrates its 75th anniversary.



ARCHIVES PHOTO

Bishop Hafey with priests, nuns, and laity at Our Lady of Annunciation in Albemarle in 1934.

- 23 February 1933 – Diocese of Raleigh Bishop William Hafey wrote the pastor of St. James Church in Hamlet, Fr. Edward Gross, and asked him to visit Albemarle once a month believing there to be four Catholic families residing in Albemarle. The bishop requested Fr. Gross offer Mass for them and provide religious instruction.
- 5 March 1934 – A letter to Bishop Hafey informed him that the Annunciation branch of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith had consented to provide money for a chapel in Albemarle. The chapel was built in memory of Bishop John J. Dunn and under the patronage of Our Lady of the Annunciation. Bishop Dunn died in 1933 and served as Auxiliary Bishop of New York. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith raised funds to construct the church and completely furnish it.
- 20 June 1934 – Work on the church began with Belmont Abbey monk, Fr. Michael McInerney, O.S.B., as architect.
- 1 July 1934 – Fr. James A. Cowan was designated as pastor of the new Our Lady of the Annunciation parish. Bishop Hafey, also, assigned him the care of St. James in Concord. Fr. Cowan's mother, Margaret, resided with him in the rectory.
- 2 September 1934 – Bishop William Hafe dedicated Our Lady of the Annunciation church. Rev. Arthur Quinn of New York sang the Mass and Fr. Thomas McDonnell of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith preached the sermon. A motion picture was made of the ceremony for use in Propagation of the Faith talks.
- April 1936 – A statue of the Blessed Mother arrived at Our Lady of the Annunciation to be placed over the front entrance. The statue was another gift from the Annunciation Branch of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.
- 1940 – Fr. Cowan held the responsibility of eight Catholic missions in six different counties. The missions under the custodial care of Our Lady of the Annunciation were Badin, Concord, Kannapolis, Gold Hill, New London, Mt. Pleasant, Norwood, and Troy.
- September 1954 – Our Lady of the Annunciation recorded 92 parishioners.
- 31 July 1964 – Our Lady of the Annunciation experienced growth and had 153 registered parishioners.
- 13 April 1966 – Due to the poor health of Fr. Cowan, Fr. (now Msgr.) Anthony Kovacic was appointed Administrator of Our Lady of the Annunciation while Fr. Cowan remained in residence at the church. Except for a brief period during 1946-1947, Fr. Cowan served Our Lady of the Annunciation since its establishment in 1934. He was their pastor for 32 years.
- 4 October 1967 – Bishop Vincent Waters offered Mass at Our Lady of the Annunciation and blessed the newly constructed Education/Social Hall.
- 3 December 1968 – Fr. James A. Cowan died at the age of 80.
- 9 September 1969 – The parish of Albemarle registered 96 families, a total of 288 parishioners. Also, under its tutelage are 40 Catholic Students from nearby Pfeiffer College.
- 31 July 1971 – Constructed on the same site as the original church, Bishop Waters dedicated the new expanded Our Lady of the Annunciation church.
- 25 March 1984 – Bishop Michael Begley offered the Golden Jubilee Mass for Our Lady of the Annunciation church. Pastor Fr. Carl Del Giudice and other former pastors of the parish celebrated the sacred liturgy as well.
- January 1988 – Bishop John F. Donoghue designated Our Lady of the Annunciation as an indulgenced church for the 1987-1988 Marian Year Celebration.
- February 1990 – Our Lady of the Annunciation took over custodial care of Our Lady of the Americas mission, Biscoe. In July 2007, Our Lady of the Americas was elevated to parish status.

Annulments in context

Advocacy classes better equip deacon candidates to serve thier parishes

ADVOCACY, from page 1

rest of parish life?

In September, candidates in the diaconate formation program hope to discover that. The program is introducing a new class in advocacy to prepare the deacon candidates to assist parishioners with the annulment process.

Along the way, they will discover that annulments can relate to almost every area of parish life.

* **Baptism:** At least one godparent must be an active practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, which means they must be in a valid marriage. If the Catholic sponsor is divorced and remarried, an annulment is needed.

* **Marriage:** Any previous marriage of either party, Catholic or not, requires an annulment.

* **RCIA:** Married people who were previously divorced need an annulment of the earlier marriage to be received into the Church and admitted to the sacraments.

* **Liturgy:** Ministers of the Church are required to be in full communion with the Church, which means they must be in a valid marriage. If they are divorced and remarried, an annulment is needed.

* **Ministry to the Sick:** If not near death, individuals who desire anointing of the sick and who are currently married would need an annulment for any previous marriage.

* **Religious education:** Catechists, like all ministers of the Church, are required to be in full communion with the Church and, if married, in a valid marriage.

Fresh approach

Deacon candidates have long been taught the portion of the Code of Canon Law that addresses marriage.

However, the application of the canons to real life situations in Advocacy is an innovation that will better equip them to serve their parishioners after ordination.

In another innovation, the wives of the candidates have also been invited to participate in the advocacy class and to become advocates in their own right.

The diocese currently has two wives of deacons who serve as advocates.

Novice advocate Nancy Kopfle is the wife of deacon John Kopfle of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Veteran advocate Catherine Shaw, wife of advocate and deacon Vincent Shaw, serves the St. Mary and St. Benedict parishes in Greensboro.

The Diocese currently has 14 deacons who are also advocates for 26 parishes and missions.

More about annulments

The tribunal, or church court, handles

the marriage nullity process, working under a set of procedures and laws established as part of Canon Law, the universal law of the Church.

An advocate is someone who helps those seeking annulments to develop their cases.

The purpose of a nullity process is to determine whether or not an indissoluble marriage bond was created when the parties entered their marriage. It must be proved clearly and without doubt that this enduring bond was not established in order to declare the marriage null.

This proof must focus on grounds of nullity recognized by church law and must apply to the marriage from its very beginning. Grounds are the provisions in the law of the church that identify the circumstances under which a marriage may be invalid.

The tribunal receives around 300 new requests for annulments each year.

When handling the nullity process, the tribunal works under a set of procedures and laws set forth by the Code of Canon Law.

The annulment process

The first step for a petitioner considering a marriage case is to approach the local parish priest or pastoral assistant, who will assist the petitioner in completing a preliminary questionnaire for submission to the diocesan tribunal. This questionnaire provides the tribunal staff an overview of the marriage.

Next, the tribunal contacts the other party to the marriage – the respondent – who has a right to be heard. A questionnaire is sent to the respondent to request information regarding the alleged grounds of nullity.

The petitioner is expected to inform witnesses that they will be contacted by the tribunal, and request their prompt cooperation. Each witness is sent a questionnaire based on the grounds in the case and a cover letter explaining how to proceed. The testimony is to be given under oath, and witnesses have the option of signing the completed questionnaire before a Catholic priest or pastoral minister or before a notary public.

A favorable decision in the diocesan tribunal must be reviewed by the Court of Appeals of the Province of Atlanta, Ga.

Upon completion, the petitioner is notified and sent a copy of the final decree.

Want to serve as an advocate?

The Advocate Training Program was created in 2004 and is open to any parishioner wishing to help those seeking annulments.

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Advocate training is offered online. Anyone interested in becoming an advocate may contact tribunal advocate Joy Barnes at (704) 370-3343 or jimbarnes@charlottediocese.org.

A call to end wars

German pope recalls Holocaust, other 'barbarities' of World War II

BY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VITERBO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the memory of the Holocaust and other "barbarities" of World War II should lead people to press for an end to contemporary conflicts around the globe.

The world's religions in particular have a duty to fight against violence and extremism, the pope said Sept. 6 during a visit to Viterbo, Italy. It was the second time the German pontiff had recalled the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II, which began when Germany invaded Poland Sept. 1, 1939.

The pope's remarks came in a long-distance greeting to participants of an interreligious peace encounter in Krakow, Poland.

"We cannot help but remember the dramatic facts that provoked one of the most terrible conflicts in history, causing millions of deaths and so much suffering to the Polish people; a conflict that saw the tragedy of the Holocaust and the extermination of other groups of innocents," the pope said.

"The memory of these events impels us to pray for the victims and for those who still bear the wounds in their bodies and their hearts. It should also be a warning against repeating these barbarities and lead us to intensify efforts to build a lasting peace in our own time, which is still

marked by conflicts," he said.

The pope said the key to future peace was the ability to transmit to younger generations a culture and style of life that is marked by love, solidarity and respect for others.

In this sense, he said, the world's religions must promote forgiveness and reconciliation against the "violence, racism, totalitarianism and extremism that disfigure the image of man's Creator" and lead to attitudes of hatred and contempt.

At the Vatican earlier in the week, the pope decried the absurdity of war and called on people to embrace forgiveness, peace and reconciliation.

Speaking in Polish to pilgrims attending his general audience Sept. 2, the pope said that the "human tragedies and the absurdity of war remain in people's memories." The pontiff was 12 years old and lived in Bavaria, in Germany, when the war began.

"Let us ask God that the spirit of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation pervades the hearts of all people," he said. "Europe and the world today need a spirit of communion," which should be built upon Christ, his Gospel, charity and truth, he said.

Two days after German troops invaded Poland from the north, south and west, France and Great Britain declared war on Germany. The war ended in 1945, leaving more than 60 million people dead, most of them civilians.



CNS PHOTO BY GRZEGORZ KOZAKIEWICZ, REUTERS

Delegates representing several religions visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland to pray for peace Sept. 8. Up to 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, died in the former Nazi death camp during World War II. Among the Catholics participating in the service was Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Pope John Paul II's former personal secretary and the current archbishop of Krakow.

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OUTDOOR AUDIENCE



CNS PHOTO BY CARLO FERRARO, POOL VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI walks with Bishop Lorenzo Chiarinelli of Viterbo, Italy, at La Quercia Church in Viterbo Sept. 6. The pope was on a one-day trip to Viterbo, where cardinals instituted the first papal conclave more than 700 years ago.

Emphasizing evangelization

Pope encourages strong witness of Gospel, commitment to charity

BY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VITERBO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Italian Catholics to strengthen the witness of the Gospel in all areas of life, from personal charity to politics.

The pope made the remarks Sept. 6 during a visit to Viterbo, a city near Rome where cardinals instituted the first papal conclave more than 700 years ago.

At an outdoor Mass at a sports complex, the pope told a crowd of some 20,000 people that announcing and witnessing the faith remains a task for every era of history. It begins with the responsibility to listen to God's word and discern his signs, he said.

"The most immediate sign of God is certainly attention to one's neighbor," he said. The charitable activity of the church and its members is an essential expression of faith and an important service to modern society, he said.

The pope said lay Catholics, in addition to doing volunteer and charity work, should also witness the faith in other areas, including service to political action.

"The seasons of history go by, the social contexts change, but what doesn't change and disappear is the vocation of Christians to live the Gospel in solidarity with the human family, in

step with the times," he said.

The pope said the desert, popular in the Bible as a place of spiritual drama and difficulty, has relevance in contemporary times.

"The most profound desert is the human heart, when it loses the capacity to listen, to speak and communicate with God and with other people. Then one becomes blind because, unable to see reality, ears are closed against those who cry for help, and the heart is hardened in indifference and selfishness," he said.

While in Viterbo the pope visited a Marian sanctuary and met with the cloistered nuns who reside there. They prayed together to Mary for the special intention of modern families that are "divided and in crisis."

Later the same day, he traveled to the nearby town of Bagnoregio, where he venerated the relics of St. Bonaventure, a 13th-century Franciscan theologian and a doctor of the church.

Addressing townspeople in the square outside the cathedral, the pope underlined St. Bonaventure's incessant search for God and his ability to see and praise the beauty of creation. The saint understood God as the source of such beauty, he added.

"How useful it would be if today, too, people discover the beauty and value of the created world in the light of divine goodness and beauty!" he said.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Are you a lapsed Catholic?

St. Francis de Sales gathers lost sheep

Pretend you were a lapsed Catholic when St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) was alive. If you were, he would hunt you down like a shepherd in hot pursuit of a prized sheep.

Remember the words of Jesus, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15:7).

Well, St. Francis de Sales truly believed that.

Francis was born to a wealthy family at the castle of Sales in Savoy. He was a brilliant student who had ambitious plans for his future. He was dreaming of becoming a successful businessman. However, in his heart there was a yearning he could not seem to quiet, so he was also struggling with the idea of becoming a priest.

Eventually God won, and Francis entered the seminary. As he deepened in faith, he realized that God had a special plan for him. After his ordination in 1593, his bishop sent him to Geneva with a specific mission in mind. It seems that Catholics there were leaving the church in droves.

Some were simply attracted by the world, but others were drawn to the powerful preaching of John Calvin. The Catholics who remained were listless and dwindling in number.

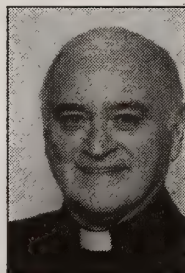
Francis prayed mightily about it and then devised a plan to travel by foot from door to door, speaking about the faith to anyone who would listen. For months he met only jeers and ridicule, but he persevered.

As time went on, more and more people responded positively to his message.

Francis also learned to use the power of the pen to expand his outreach. He wrote a series of pamphlets about

Spirituality for Today

BY FATHER
JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



the faith. Because of his clarity and conviction, he touched hearts. Each pamphlet was designed to lead to the next, until they all added up to a complete explanation of the Catholic faith.

Francis was not only the writer; he was also the publisher and marketing director. He even performed the delivery service. He would slip the printed tracts under the doors in all the villages around him. Then he began preaching on street corners.

As his fame spread, the crowds grew larger. Within four years he achieved amazing results. The thousands that had left the church began returning. They not only came back; they began practicing their faith with a new fervor. The impact of his ministry became known throughout Europe.

In 1602 Francis was made the bishop of Geneva. His most famous book, "Introduction to the Devout Life" (1608), is still in circulation today.

St. Francis died in 1622 and was canonized in 1665. He became a doctor of the church in 1877, and in 1923 Pope Pius XI made him the patron saint of writers and journalists.

Those of you who are interested in evangelization would do well to follow his example. He understood that the most effective way to win back souls to God is to go directly to the target audience.

Don't wait for them to come to you.

Simple Realities

Setting a few parameters for the health care debate

Guest Column

BY JOE
TOWALSKI
CNS COLUMNIST

The national health care reform debate is moving into a critical phase. Lawmakers have talked about various proposals for months and heard an earful from constituents. Now the time for action — whether to adopt changes to the system, or once again forgo reform for the foreseeable future — is fast approaching.

To be sure, making the right decisions won't be easy. The bills under consideration are lengthy and deal with complex issues. There is no simple cure for what ails a health care system suffering from inefficiencies, high costs and barriers to access for too many Americans.

And there is still a lot to debate and decide: Should a new health care approach feature a government-sponsored option? Nonprofit co-ops? Tort reform? Some of the above? None of the above?

The ongoing debate can be fruitful and lead us to make the right choices if we are willing to acknowledge some simple realities and establish a few parameters for the discussion from this point forward.

First, we need to acknowledge that our current health care system is broken and needs to be fixed as soon as possible. It's a scandal that 47 million Americans can't afford or can't access the health insurance they need. It demeans their human dignity. And it drives up the cost of health care for everyone else when visiting the local hospital's emergency room becomes the only option for a doctor visit. Many of us are only a job loss away from being in the same situation.

Second, we shouldn't buy into the false notion popular in some circles that the church is only interested in the abortion issue regarding reform efforts. Yes, we Catholics are adamant that reform efforts don't expand access to abortion. Yes, we believe that the health care system must respect human life from conception to natural death. But that's what a health care system should do: protect and nurture human life, not destroy it.

The church, rightfully, also has been a proponent of efforts to provide quality health care for everyone, including the

poor and immigrants. That, too, is an essential part of any reform package, and we need to be vocal about reminding lawmakers that universal care and universal respect for life are twin pillars on which reform must rest.

Third, as we make our views known, we must be civil and take care not to demonize those with whom we disagree. Town-hall meetings where attendees shout down lawmakers and others in the audience are examples of disrespectful and boorish behavior. These actions result in a lot of fire — as well as media coverage — but shine little light on the issues at hand.

As Catholics who believe in everyone's God-given human dignity and Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves, we are called to a higher standard. We should assume that others — like us — are motivated by a sincere desire to do the right thing. And, when we disagree with others, those disagreements should be rooted in facts and logic, not misplaced anger and emotion. We need to show others that civil conversations and debates are still possible.

At the same time, it's clear that many people are very frustrated by what they perceive as a lack of candor on the part of lawmakers to truly listen to their constituents' views and disclose their own views on the particulars of health care reform. Lawmakers need to be clear, honest and offer the same kind of respectful listening that they expect from voters.

Finally, let's not forget that we must look beyond our own personal situations as they relate to the current debate.

The command to love our neighbor means that we must be concerned not only about our own family, co-workers and close circle of friends, but also our family members in faith whom we don't know personally: the uninsured parents with a child suffering from a serious medical challenge, the immigrant newcomer who is working two jobs with no health insurance to help put food on his family's table, the young single woman facing an unplanned pregnancy who needs help to make life-giving choices.

Doing what's right for these people — as well as the people we know — is what it means to be concerned for the common good, to help establish God's kingdom on earth.

That's one of the ideas we as Catholics are called to bring to this health care debate.

Are we up to the challenge?

Welcoming the Deaf

For many years I have interpreted the Mass at a local church and one in Maryland. Not only have I interpreted the regular Mass, I have even interpreted the entire Christmas Midnight Mass including the musical portion prior to the Mass.

About five years ago statistics said that in Rowan County alone there were 11,730 persons 18yrs and up with hearing loss (both deaf and hard of hearing).

I have experienced priests in Maryland saying that with an interpreter

Letters to the Editor

the congregants do not watch him as they should.

There have been parishioners who have complained that having an interpreter is distracting and that the deaf person/s should not sit only in the front pew.

Churches need to have induction loops for the hard of hearing. After Mass I make sure that I am available to interpret between the deaf person and any other parishioner but very seldom does anyone approach the deaf person.

— June Clancy
Salisbury, NC

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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A moral obligation demands respect

Discussing Catholic points in U.S. healthcare reform

Let's make a distinction between sports talk radio and the debate on a vital moral issue — health care reform — before Congress resumes consideration of a myriad of health reform bills later this month.

There is room for vigorous debate on the topic, both sides agree, but what's been happening through the summer months is not vigorous debate. It has been a time full of hyperbole, name-calling, and a time when volume seemed to replace logic.

The gravity of the topic deserves a much higher level of discourse.

"This is, quite literally, a life-and-death issue, about human pain and suffering, and about the proliferation of immoral practices carried out by insurance companies," wrote Michael Jeffries, a columnist for the Manchester Guardian.

"Just as it is important to speak about quality control and efficiency, it is critical to frame health care reform as a moral obligation — as something that we owe to each other as Americans and as parents of future generations."

And that is exactly what the Catholic bishops of the United States are doing.

"Genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all is a moral imperative and a vital national obligation," said the chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Bishop

William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in a July 17 letter to Congress.

Accepting as fact that adequate health care in support of human dignity is a moral question, it is important to insist that it be treated with the respect a grave matter deserves. There should be valid concern about end-of-life issues, but not the caricatures of "death panels."

Those who equate health care reform with Nazism show an appalling lack of understanding both of history and of rhetoric.

"We are in danger of turning evil itself into a triviality when we draw on the images of Hitler's Germany to make political points in debates that are in no way comparable to the terrors of Nazism," Pulitzer Prize historian Jon Meacham wrote recently in Newsweek.

Those demonizing health insurers are no less guilty of a lack of charity.

A free and vigorous debate is not name-calling, angry shouts and incendiary signs. It should be a reasoned discussion as proponents of an issue use logic under an assumption of good faith.

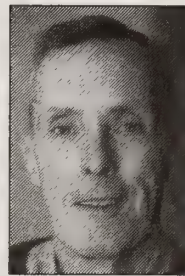
Health care reform is complex, with terminology more common to insurance policies and medical texts. For that reason, it is imperative to understand our Catholic position.

Equally important is knowing what is not the church's position.

For example, the church's position on stem-cell research has been

Consider This

BY
STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



misrepresented as opposition to all stem-cell research, thus denying assistance to thousands of suffering people. But the church is not against all stem-cell research. It is in opposition to embryonic stem-cell research, which requires the destruction of life. It favors research involving the use of adult stem cells and umbilical cord cells.

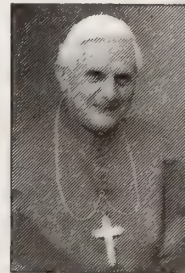
The bishops established four criteria for comprehensive health care reform: respect for human life and dignity, access for all, pluralism and equitable costs. An acceptable bill must exclude mandated coverage for abortion and require continuance of existing laws that restrict abortion funding.

The heat of the summer sniping and name-calling should give way to cooler temperatures and temperaments of the fall and a vigorous presentation of positions conducted well within the bounds of rhetoric and the spirit of charity.

Take time out daily to hear God's voice, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People need to carve time out of their busy day to dedicate to silent prayer or meditation in order to hear what God has to say, said Pope Benedict XVI.

The faithful also have to remember not to become completely caught up in their daily activities and concerns, forgetting that Jesus should be the focus of their lives, he said at his weekly general audience Sept. 9.

Continuing a series of audience talks about influential Christian writers from the Middle Ages, the pope focused his catechesis on the life of St. Peter Damian, an 11th-century monk, cardinal and doctor of the church.

Monastic life offers an important lesson to all Christians — that it is important to learn how to achieve an inner silence in order to listen to God's voice, he said.

St. Peter Damian taught that Christ must be at the center of monastic life; Christ must be heard in one's voice, be served in one's life and felt in one's heart, the pope continued.

All Christians, not just contemplative religious, must cultivate this intimate union with Christ, Pope Benedict concluded.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the Christian writers of East and West, we turn to Saint Peter Damian, who was born in Ravenna at the beginning of the eleventh century and became an accomplished writer and Latinist. His fine sensitivity made him excel in poetry and enabled him to see the world as a parable, full of symbolic references to the supernatural, leading him to embrace as a mature man a monastic vocation at Fonte Avellana, founded not long before. He was fascinated by the salvific mystery of the cross of Christ and promoted as the fullness of Christian living a form of monasticism noted for its austerity. Nourished by a mystical understanding of Scripture, Saint Peter Damian enjoyed precise theological insights especially into the mysteries of the Holy Trinity, our union with Christ, and the Church as a communion, from which he derived practical advice for living in charity with others. In 1057 he accepted the office of Cardinal Bishop of Ostia and assisted the Pope with courage and dedication in the reform of the Church of his time. After ten years he was granted his wish to return to his monastery and continued to serve the Church with prayer and action until his holy death in 1072. May the example and intercession of Saint Peter Damian, my dear Brothers and Sisters, inspire and renew us in our love of Christ and his Church.

Final move

Leaving material things, taking spiritual growth

I hate moving.

I especially hate it when I am moving somebody else's stuff. But that is what I was doing. Schlepping boxes around in the late-August heat and packing stuff up for the "final move."

A friend and former parishioner had died. He appointed me his executor.

It was logical. He had no children. He had never married. He was not particularly close to his siblings. In the last few years of his life I had become his counselor and friend. Since I was both a lawyer and his priest, he figured I would know what to do.

Being an executor is a melancholy duty. When I got the call that my friend had died, I made arrangements for his funeral. I drove three hours to his house and closed it up. I cleaned out the fridge. He had been in the hospital for six weeks, so some stuff was pretty ripe.

After the funeral, I was back at the house for a couple of days. I hired a lawyer and filed the necessary papers with the court. I met with a real estate agent and started the ball rolling on selling the house.

I closed up his bank accounts and

shut off his cell phone. I secured the car and arranged for its sale. I filed a change of address card and notified the neighbors and the homeowners' association.

Finally I arranged with an estate auction house to come the next day to take away all his furniture, art and nice things such as china and silverware.

Just before the auction house truck came, I started emptying out drawers. All the little things people collect poured out.

I packed up family photos and other personal items for his sister. I selected a photo of him for myself. Then I tackled the clothes closets. So much stuff!

It all went to the local charity thrift store.

As I sat on a folding chair sorting all this stuff, I was overcome with sadness for my friend. His things counted for nothing in the end.

I believe what he wanted was friendship, and he had outlived his closest friends.

I never realized how important it was to him that we occasionally went out to dinner or talked on the phone.

In just two days time, all the

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER
J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



physical evidence of his existence was gone. The accumulated stuff of a lifetime vanished!

As I turned the key in the empty house, I thought of the poet John Keats' epitaph: "Here lies one whose name is writ in water."

We leave little evidence of ourselves.

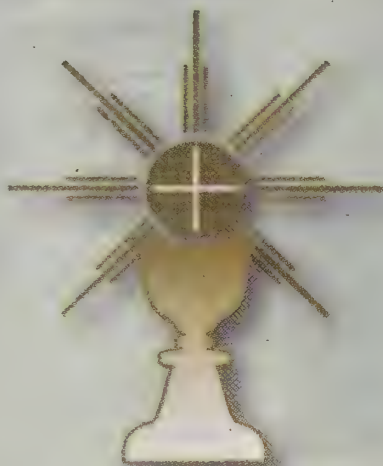
I know my friend lives on in God's sight. But still it was so sad.

In the end, the stuff we collect matters nothing. Strangers will take it away.

What really matters is friendship.

What really matters is the bond with other people.

What really matters is love.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



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Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
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Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

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Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Sr. Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



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SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 39

'The Donut Man' satisfies a hunger

Interview with
Catholic singer,
storyteller

BY DAVID HAINS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

CHARLOTTE — Rob Evans, "The Donut Man," is the featured presenter for the Children's Track of the Eucharistic Congress to be held Sept. 25-26 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Evans lives in Philadelphia and performs about 200 concerts around the world each year. Since beginning his ministry in 1986, he has sold more than six-million CDs and videos.

His presentations combine songs and storytelling that explain to children God's plan of salvation and his presence

See DONUT, page 4

Journey to the Priesthood



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Deacon Gabriel Salazar-Carvajal receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Peter J. Jugis during Carvajal's ordination to the transitional diaconate at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Sept. 12.

Seminarian ordained to transitional diaconate

BY DAVID HAINS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

CHARLOTTE — With his parents and five of his 14 siblings proudly watching, Gabriel Salazar-Carvajal was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, Sept. 12 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the morning Mass along with ten diocesan priests.

The bi-lingual Mass featured the choir from Deacon Carvajal's home parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Monroe, as well as cantor Joan Kelley of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The music was conducted by Dr. Larry Stratemeyer of St. Patrick Cathedral.

Carvajal is a seminarian for the diocese who completed

See ORDINATION, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Cardinals Marc Ouellet of Quebec, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Sean P. O'Malley of Boston celebrate the opening Mass of the eucharistic congress sponsored by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 11. The congress theme was the Eucharist in the context of Christian vocations to the priesthood, religious life and marriage.

'Sacrifice of enduring love'

Eucharistic congress at National Shrine

BY LAURA WRIGHT
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hundreds of people poured into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 11 and 12 for a eucharistic congress sponsored by the Council of Major Superiors of

Women Religious.

Pilgrims from across the country came to worship Jesus in the Eucharist, listen to talks given by the head of the Knights of Columbus and the daughter of St. Gianna Molla, and see fireworks shoot into the sky next to the shrine. They also

See SACRIFICE, page 6

Re-examining relationships with God

Parish community
relationships strengthened
through sacraments

BY
KATHLEEN HEALY
SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — The "Time of Grace" retreat, held Sept. 6-9 at Immaculate Conception Church in

See RETREAT, page 14

Culture Watch

Word to Life; Vietnamese
music in New Orleans

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Around the diocese

Students attend Stanford leadership
class; Filipino rosary groups

| PAGES 12

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See pages 7 - 10, 16.

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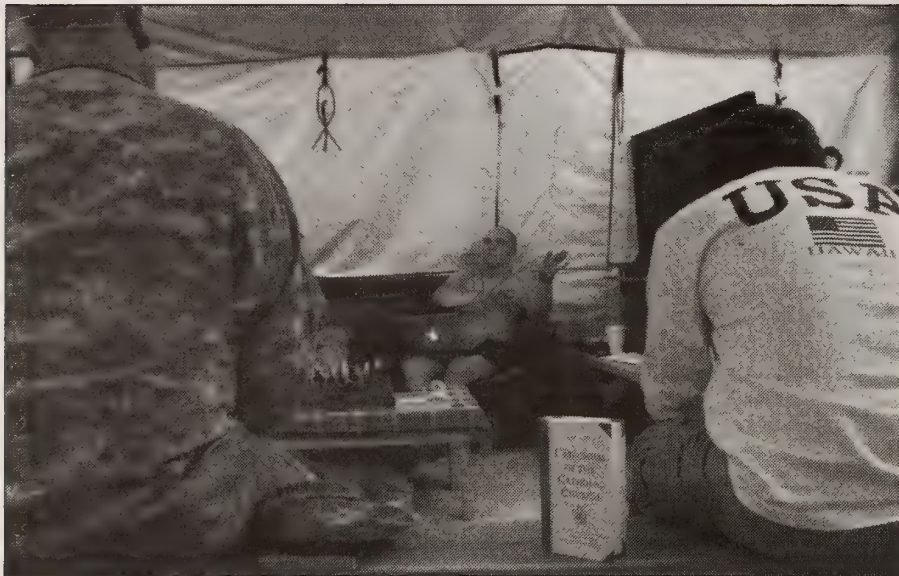
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S18 P1

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SPIRITUAL SOLDIERS



CNS PHOTO BY JESSICA WEINSTEIN

Cpl. Andrew Roy Jr., of Holy Family Parish in Watertown, N.Y., gives a lesson on Catholic teaching to troops stationed at the Forward Operating Base Airborne in Afghanistan. Roy said he had struggled with understanding and embracing his faith for most of his life until this deployment to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Spiritual oasis in an Afghan desert

Soldier's faith takes root, spreads during deployment in Afghanistan

FOB AIRBORNE, Afghanistan (CNS) — On a recent starlit night in eastern Afghanistan, five U.S. soldiers and two civilians spread out under a tent, sitting on leather couches and wooden plank benches to discuss the doctrine of the real presence in the Eucharist.

Cpl. Andrew Roy Jr. of Holy Family Parish in Watertown, N.Y., read aloud from a computer outline on a flat-screen television in the chapel at FOB Airborne. He reviewed the history of Gnostics and councils that have long debated the real-presence doctrine of the Roman Catholic faith.

In May, this stocky soldier with clear blue eyes and a forceful voice was not wearing a wooden rosary over his chest as he was that night. Instead, he was in the throes of a spiritual journey that led him from being agnostic to a devout Roman Catholic.

In the desert of Afghanistan, his spiritual fervor offers an oasis of religious discussion and dialogue about faith and the church.

Roy, who never made it past his first Communion to confirmation until adulthood, struggled with understanding and embracing his faith for most of his life until this deployment to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

"In May, he was bringing in books to disprove God's existence, and now he's willing to fight for it," said the Rev. Jeff Masengale, a captain and a Southern Baptist chaplain.

Over a three-month period, discussions between the two men led Roy back to his Catholic roots. Recently, he decided to turn his private

research into a catechism class for other soldiers on this forward operating base, or FOB.

Three Protestants and three Catholics came to Roy's class. They peppered him with questions as he moved through his outline, sharing the debate within the early church on the concepts of real presence and transubstantiation.

Despite the divisions of church doctrine and tradition represented by this group, the discourse was civil and full of laughter.

"When you come from various Protestant backgrounds, there's a lot of stereotypes," said Spc. Gregory Gates, a nondenominational Christian from Youngstown, Ohio.

"Actually what I've been learning is that these stereotypes aren't necessarily so. It's good to hear from someone who's actually Catholic what the Catholic Church really believes, and it has encouraged me to study the Bible more and search for myself what I believe is true in the word of God," he said.

"If now they are forming questions about the faith — maybe they will come to Catholicism," said Roy.

So each night, Roy closes with the following prayer:

"Thank you Lord for these people who are interested in learning (more about you). Despite our differences, we thank you that we all believe in one Savior."

And before the night is over, he encourages participants to bring more students.

"You'll get a free catechism," he jokes. "How can you go wrong?"

USCCB, CHA officials encouraged by Obama's address on health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama's pledge to continue the ban on the use of federal funds for abortion and to maintain conscience protections for health care workers in any health reform legislation was welcomed by two officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the president of the Catholic Health Association.

Speaking with Catholic News Service Sept. 10, hours after Obama addressed a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience, Kathy Saile, director of domestic social development in the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, said the president's address offered an encouraging sign that the administration has been listening to concerns raised by the bishops and pro-life organizations about abortion funding in any reform legislation.

Citing the bishops' long-standing belief that all Americans must have

access to quality, affordable health care, Saile said the president's speech must be followed up with the appropriate changes in legislation currently pending in both houses of Congress.

As currently written, the leading piece of legislation in the House, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, known as H.R. 3200, allows for federal funding of abortion. Language continues to be worked on in Senate reform measures.

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, echoed Saile in a statement released Sept. 10.

"We believe that incorporating essential and long-standing federal laws on these issues into any new proposal will strengthen support for health care reform," Doerflinger said, pledging to work with Congress and the White House to ensure that current legislation is amended.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The fall *Women's Program* at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will be held Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The program will be based on the Book of Esther and providence. The program will begin with a prayer experience of *Lectio Divina*. Presentations will be given by lay members of the Discalced Carmelites and the Fraternity of St. Dominic along with personal reflections on providence given by local parishioners. The program is free and includes lunch and door prizes. There will be a raffle to help defray expenses. All women are welcome. To RSVP, contact Marcia Torres at (828) 697-1235, or e-mail johnandmarciatorres@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The fall 2009 *Kick-off vigil for the 40 Days for Life* will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. 40 Days for Life is a nationwide, pro-life campaign seeking to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful vigil outside of a local abortion

facility. The campaign runs Sept. 23 through Nov. 1 and will be held outside of "A Preferred Women's Health Center," 3220 Latrobe Dr., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, contact Brian or Angela Williams at (704) 847-7311 or e-mail angiegirl67@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE — A *Post Abortion Support Group* using exercises of St. Ignatius will be starting at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a 31-week program which follows the Liturgical calendar. The exercises will consist of meeting once per week in addition to being assigned daily scriptural meditations. The group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. in Room NLC 204, starting Sept. 23 and running through April 28. For more information, contact Christy at (704) 293-6602 or Andrea at (704) 996-4597. Confidentiality assured.

CHARLOTTE — A *presentation on Our Lady of Fatima and Holy Mary and Islam* will take place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will be Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and Mike Sullivan, president of Catholics United for the Faith in Steubenville, Ohio. Light refreshments will be served after the talks. Come for fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ while we learn some fascinating facts about our Blessed Mother. For more information, contact Elizabeth Keating at ewkeating4@aol.com or Mary Sample at marysample5@aol.com or call (704) 341-9292.

CHARLOTTE — Anyone interested in learning more about the *Secular Franciscan Order* and how to become a part of this group is invited to attend an informational meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. There will be concurrent sessions in English and Spanish on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact David Romero at (704) 877-5505.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 39

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Long-term clean-energy initiatives

Vatican installs solar collectors for heating, cooling buildings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As part of its long-term clean-energy initiatives, the Vatican has installed high-tech solar collectors to help heat and cool its buildings.

The installation came about a year after the tiny city-state turned the roof of its Paul VI audience hall into a giant solar-power generator to produce energy for the Vatican's power grid.

The new solar collectors will help the Vatican diversify the ways it develops its renewable energy program, said Pier Carlo Cuscianna, director of technical services for Vatican City.

In an article that appeared Sept. 11 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Cuscianna said the new solar collectors are on three different rooftops inside Vatican City.

Two-inch-wide tubes snake across 110 solar collectors, which cover 3,767 square feet, he said.

Through a process called absorption cooling, the hot thermal energy produced can be used to cool buildings in the summer, he said.

Using the sun's intense heat in the summer to produce cool air inside a building is "a very valuable application" available with today's new technologies, he said.

Cuscianna said the new heating and cooling units are reliable, quiet and compact and require very low maintenance. With their use, about 80 tons of carbon dioxide emissions will be avoided and another 80 tons of petroleum will be saved each year, he said.

CHARLOTTE — A monthly *Respect Life* Mass will be celebrated Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Following Mass there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to pray a rosary at a local abortion facility. The morning will conclude with Benediction. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Free *Spanish* classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., every Thursday for eight weeks beginning Sept. 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Beginner and advanced classes are open to everyone and class materials are furnished. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Dr. Kwan at Hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Catholic Daughters of the Americas* is seeking Catholic women ages 18 and up to join the organization. The Catholic Daughters were founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus and now have more than 95,000 members worldwide. Courts in the Diocese of Charlotte are located in Charlotte, Asheville, Statesville, Salisbury, Greensboro and Sylva. Membership is open to all Catholic women. For more information, contact Essie Walker at (704) 577-7436.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A presentation entitled *Take Back Your Family Time*, offered by Dr. William Doherty, will take place in the Bishop Begley Parish Center of St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., Sept. 29. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. Many of today's families suffer from time famine and parental anxiety. Dr. Doherty discusses the problem of over-scheduled kids and under-connected families. He gets to the heart of the issues and encourages parents to regain their

leadership. Join us for a three-part program including a large screen DVD presentation and small group discussions with parents and facilitators. For more information, contact Mary Beth Young at ymarybeth@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans of the Fraternity of St. Clare is sponsoring a *Blessing of the Animals* Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd. All caged or leashed pets welcome. For more information, call Anne Modrow at (336) 760-1938.

CLEMMONS — *Eucharistic Adoration* takes place every Thursday in the Curlin Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Carole at pinmoney@bellsouth.net.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — *40 Days for Life*, a nationwide, pro-life campaign seeking to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach and a peaceful vigil outside of a local abortion facility, will be held in Winston-Salem Sept. 23 - Nov. 1. The campaign will take place on Maplewood Ave. near Planned Parenthood from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.40daysforlife.com/Winstonsalem.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmooore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

"Brothers and sisters in humanity"

Vatican says Christians, Muslims should unite against poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians and Muslims share concern and compassion for those suffering in poverty and can find common ground to work toward eradicating both the causes and the problems it creates, the Vatican said.

In its traditional message to Muslims at the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue called attention to poverty as "a subject at the heart of the precepts that, under different beliefs, we all hold dear."

As "brothers and sisters in humanity," the letter said, people of both faiths can help the poor "establish their place in the fabric of society."

The letter, published Sept. 11, was signed by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the pontifical council, and Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, council secretary. It emphasized that in addition to the suffering endured by the poor the consequences of poverty on society as a whole are dire and require the attention of all people of faith.

"We all know that poverty has the power to humiliate and to engender intolerable sufferings," the letter said.

"It can provoke hostile actions using any available means, even seeking to justify them on religious grounds."

This is why "confronting the phenomenon of extremism and violence necessarily implies tackling poverty through the promotion of integral human development," the letter said, citing a concept promoted by Pope Paul VI in his 1967 encyclical, *Populorum Progressio*.

The origin of poverty lies in "the lack of respect for the innate dignity of solidarity and calls us to a global solidarity," the letter said.

As believers, it continued, Muslims and Christians can work together "for a just and durable solution to the scourge of poverty," while also "reflecting on the grave problems of our times."

The letter acknowledged that steps had been made in improving Christian-Muslim relations and that in many parts of the world "we have passed from tolerance to a meeting together, beginning with common lived experience and real shared concerns."

This year's Ramadan period began Aug. 21 and was to finish Sept. 19.

Faith and art



CNS PHOTO BY RAFAEL MARCHANTE, REUTERS

Award-winning Italian composer Ennio Morricone conducts during the Mawazine Festival in Rabat, Morocco, in this May 15 file photo. Morricone is among hundreds of artists Pope Benedict XVI has invited to the Vatican for a dialogue on faith and art in November.

Pope to meet artists in Sistine Chapel to rekindle faith-art dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has invited hundreds of artists to meet with him in the Vatican in an attempt to rekindle the special historical relationship between faith and art.

More than 500 personalities from the worlds of art, theater, literature and music have been asked to gather with the

pope under the legendary Michelangelo frescoes in the Sistine Chapel Nov. 21.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the meeting was to be the first of many initiatives aimed at bridging the gap that has developed between spirituality and artistic expression over the last century or so.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 19 (5 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Sept. 20 (5:30 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

Sept. 25-26
Eucharistic Congress
Charlotte Convention Center

Sept. 29
Episcopal ordination of Bishop-Elect Luis Zarama, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta
Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta

Catholic singer, storyteller entertains children

DONUT, from page 1

in the sacraments. Paraphrasing a Gospel passage Evans calls himself, "a fisher of little men." He spoke recently with David Hains of The Catholic News & Herald about his ministry and the Eucharistic Congress. His responses have been edited for brevity.

As the name implies, the emphasis of the Eucharist Congress is the Eucharist. How will your presentation reflect that?

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Catholic faith. We begin with the covenant of creation and then the greatest covenant of all, the sacrifice of the Eucharist. There isn't a concert that goes by that I'm not eucharistic.

Why "The Donut Man," why not "The Cruller Guy," or "The Sticky Bun Dude?"

Donuts make me cry. They are good, but they have something missing. So every concert alludes to a donut which I discovered is an edible object lesson for the state of man. I am harkening back to St. Augustine himself who

said there is a God-shaped vacuum in every man that only God can fill. So, as "The Donut Man" I present the Gospel and ask what fills that empty place in us? Well of course it is Jesus Christ who comes to us in the sacraments of the holy Catholic Church. I think it's urgent that children understand which (passages of) holy Scripture elaborate on the core sacraments of the Catholic Church.

How will you present that message to the children at the Eucharistic Congress?

I am looking forward to using music, stories and songs to help children consider the holy Scriptures from the inside out. For example, the parable of the mustard seed is sung by the mustard seed and (the children) are the seed. The story of Daniel and the Lion's den is sung by the Lion and the children are the Lion.

What is it like in the room when you are leading several hundred children in song and storytelling?

It's what gets me out of bed in the morning. Praising God is such a joy; seeing a room full of children, their life and enthusiasm is something that I



COURTESY PHOTO

Rob Evans "The Donut Man" will appear in the Children's Track of the Eucharistic Congress, Sept 26.

capture. They come up on stage and help me. They become the wind and the rain, for example, in the parable of the wind and the rain. My presentations live or die by their enthusiastic participation.

I understand "The Donut Man" has a companion.

I do. My little buddy is a puppet named Duncan the talking donut. He is

someone who is sweet but he is also a bit of a gadfly who says unspeakable things like, "I don't want to clean my bedroom," "I don't want to be good," and "I don't want to listen." He gives voice to those temptations that we actually have to cope with. I teach the children how to help Duncan to be good by addressing his temptation with the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and the sacraments.

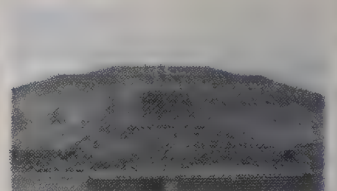
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- * Aztec ruins and Pyramids of the Sun and Moon tell the archaeological history
- * Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine - special Mass, free time to reflect, explore and purchase spiritual keepsakes
- * Famous Xochimilco market experienced by a gondola ride through its canals
- * Historic Puebla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site - a magnificent converted monastery is our hotel for 2 nights as we explore this picturesque valley in the mountains
- * Day trips to both architecturally-important Taxco (known also for beautiful silver creations) and Cuernavaca, with its history and beautiful gardens
- * Free time for relaxation, reflection and shopping!
- * Colorful Ballet Folklorico - optional evening of world-renown national music and dance celebration
- * Local arts and craft demonstrations to see famous Talavera pottery, the maguey plant, etc., and Diego Rivera's famous storytelling murals
- * San Miguel de Milagro, site of St. Michael's miraculous apparitions and well of curative waters
- * Mass celebrated each day in special historical holy sites

PRICE: only \$1,869 (register before Oct. 29) from Charlotte INCLUDES AIRFARE, full-time professional tour manager, most meals, first class hotels and all tour fees. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Travel with the diocese - we take care of the details!

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

ALL BISHOP MCGUINNESS FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF!

Bishop McGuinness is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this school year and we are looking for former faculty and staff members. You are a very important part of the school's history and we would love for you to attend some of our events and join in the celebration. If you taught or worked at Bishop McGuinness High School please contact the school's Advancement Office at 336-564-1009 or send an email to ps@bmhs.us to provide us with your current contact information (mailing address, phone number, email address). We look forward to hearing from you! Bishop Pride!!!

Celebrating service, renewing vows



COURTESY PHOTO

A priest and two religious sisters, who have a total of 137 years of religious service among them, renewed their vows during a special Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington Sept. 12.

Sisters of Providence Katherine Francis (right), celebrating 40 years, and Betty Paul, celebrating 44 years, were honored along with Salesian Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, who has served as an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales for 53 years.

The two sisters and the priest are pictured with Father A.J. Gallant and Knights of Columbus honor guard representatives Thomas Fabyjanski and Ralph Schwartz.

Seeking healing and forgiveness after an abortion?

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Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats - (open to both men and women)

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mnadol@charlottediocese.org

You may also want to visit Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org.



Respect Life Program
Family Life Office
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Newly ordained transitional deacon Gabriel Salazar-Carvajal is pictured with his parents and five of his 14 siblings. His father Heron Carvajal is pictured on his right with his mother, Maria Olivia Salazar, on his left.

Seminarian ordained to transitional diaconate

ORDINATION, from page 1

his seminary training at the Pontifical University in his native Mexico in June. Prior to entering the seminary he worked as a lay missionary in Mexico. He also attended Immaculate Conception seminary in Huntington, N.Y.

Carvajal jokingly says that he was encouraged in his vocation by Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "I asked him to come and bless my home," said Carvajal, "but when he learned how many brothers and sisters I had, he said, 'If you go to the seminary you can bless all of their homes.'"

"I am very grateful to God for his guidance in my vocation," said Carvajal. "I look forward to my new responsibilities."

Carvajal also credits Father Ricardo Sanchez of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe for guidance in his vocation.

After the Mass, Deacon Carvajal posed for pictures with his proud parents and five of his brothers as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews. Carvajal

is the oldest of 15 children; many of his 12 brothers and two sisters live in the Monroe area.

"I want this to be the beginning of a great journey for him," said his father Heron Carvajal through an interpreter. "I feel closer to God today."

The role of the deacon is defined as being a servant. In his homily, delivered especially to Carvajal from a chair in front of the altar, Bishop Jugis emphasized the role of service in the life of a deacon.

"Jesus came not to be served, but to serve," said Bishop Jugis "This is the model for your diaconate: Jesus, the servant of all."

The service of a transitional deacon includes the ministry of the Word, the ministry of the altar and the ministry of charity. Deacon Carvajal assisted Bishop Jugis in the preparation of the gifts of bread and wine that were changed into the Eucharist.

After several months in the transitional diaconate, a candidate for the priesthood petitions the bishop for ordination.

Deacon Carvajal joins transitional deacons David Miller and John Eckert, who were ordained in April. Deacon Carvajal is currently assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir.

The next priestly ordination for the diocese will take place in June 2010.

SOUTH CAROLINA CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Take Courage ... Jesus is Calling You (Mark 10:49).

October 24 - 26, 2009

Speakers: Fr. Tom Forrest, C.Ss.R. — Int'l Dir., EVANGELIZATION 2000
Michael Cumbie — Catholic Evangelist; Pres., Micah Project

Conference: Opening Mass Friday evening — Celebrant, Bishop Robert Guglielmone; Talks (Saturday) Mass and Healing Service Saturday Evening



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e-mail scrocker4@windstream.net



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

North American archbishops join the entrance procession at the opening Mass of the eucharistic congress sponsored by women religious at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 11. Following the altar servers are Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, and Cardinal Marc Ouellet, archbishop of Quebec. At left is Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, superior of the Sisters for Life.

Eucharistic congress at National Shrine

SACRIFICE, from page 1

attended workshops held throughout the day Sept. 12. The theme of the gathering was "Sacrifice of Enduring Love."

Before the opening Mass began on the evening of Sept. 11, hundreds of sisters in many different colored habits filled a large portion of the center pews in the basilica's Upper Church.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who delivered the homily at the Mass, said the key to understanding the Eucharist is to understand how Jesus was "motivated by a great love for his Father."

There is an "explicit connection between Calvary and Christ's love for his Father," the cardinal said. "We are here to acknowledge the power of his blood, ...the sacrifice our Lord, Jesus Christ offered for us on Calvary."

Concelebrating the Mass with Cardinal Rigali were Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec; Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston; Cardinal William W. Baum, retired archbishop of Washington; current Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl; Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va.; Washington Auxiliary Bishops Francisco Gonzalez, Martin D. Holley and Barry C. Knestout; and nearly 40 priests.

Archbishop Wuerl said what brings people to the eucharistic congress is the knowledge that the "central work of (the church's) salvation becomes really present" in the Eucharist.

Following the Mass, Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said the Eucharist is a "living sign of a spiritual reality."

"The Eucharist reaches every corner

of every life," he said. "Each of us has some vocation, the vocation to love. If God is love, and the Eucharist is the face of God's love, it makes sense to take the Eucharist inside ourselves because we become more loving."

Anderson also spoke about vocations, and the need to live a joy-filled life so others can see the beauty of the priesthood, consecrated life and married life.

It is "not scandal, but joylessness," that is responsible for the lack of vocations, he said.

Students from Oklahoma State University and the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma flew across the country to attend the eucharistic congress.

Beth Willis, a junior at Oklahoma State University, said she came to see St. Gianna Molla's daughter, Laura Molla. She also came to discern her vocation and grow in faith and love for the Eucharist.

"That is the source and summit of our lives," she said. Participating in Mass and sitting in front of the tabernacle can "be a release," she added.

Joan Nuttall, a junior at University of Tulsa, said she also came to learn more about the Eucharist.

She said she hopes to learn "something about how to apply (the Eucharist) in my daily life." Nuttall added that sometimes after Mass dismissal, she doesn't use the grace given to her in the Eucharist as much as she could. She hoped to learn more about how to do this at the eucharistic congress.

Lynne Jakobowski, whose husband served in the Knights of Columbus honor guard at the Mass, said the Eucharist brings her peace and closeness with God.

Later that evening, families, priests and sisters gathered outside the shrine to pray, sing and watch a fireworks display.

A saint's daughter

Laura Molla's mother sacrificed life for unborn child

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many people might say their mothers are saints but very few have an official church declaration to back it up.

Fifty-year-old Laura Molla, daughter of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, is one of those people.

Molla addressed participants at a Eucharistic Congress at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington sponsored by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. The theme of the Sept. 11-12 congress was "Sacrifice of Enduring Love."

St. Gianna, often called the "pro-life saint," was canonized in 2004 by Pope John Paul II for having put her unborn child's life before her own. In 1962, when she was pregnant with her fourth child, doctors discovered a large ovarian tumor that required surgery. Although surgical procedures at the time called for removal of her entire uterus, Gianna Molla, 39, insisted surgeons remove only what was necessary and allow her baby to live.

She pleaded with family and doctors: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate. Choose the child, I insist on it, save the baby."

When she died of an infection — a week after giving birth to Gianna Emanuela — the Italian saint left behind not only her newborn, but also her husband, Pietro, and three other children including Laura, who was just shy of her third birthday.

"We had to work through the shock of losing our mother to find the joy in knowing she is a mother for all," Molla told Catholic News Service Sept. 11, the day before the congress.

Molla, who now works in the furniture business in Italy, said she has learned a lot about how her mother

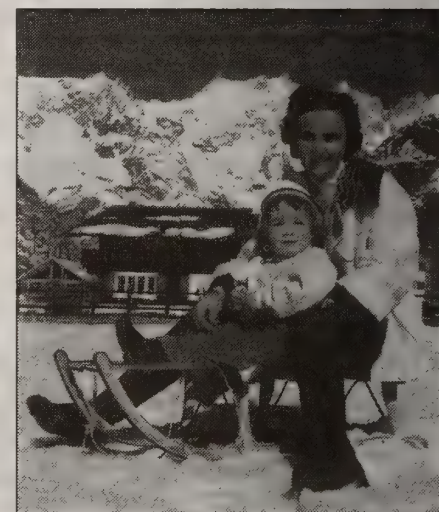
juggled a career as a medical doctor with being a wife and mother.

She described being a saint's daughter as "a great joy and a huge privilege," and added that she often asks herself if she's "worthy of this privilege."

As she sees it, her mother's decision nearly 50 years ago was not an isolated choice. She told participants at the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 12 that her mother's action was "the crowning of a whole life of virtue, a life lived constantly in the light of the Gospel as a young woman, physician, spouse and mother."

When she hears people question the choice to leave behind three children in order to give birth to a fourth, Molla insists her mother was convinced her unborn child had the same right to live as her other children.

"She did not choose death," but "at that moment she chose the life of her child."



CNS PHOTO

St. Gianna Beretta Molla is pictured on a family outing with daughter Laura in an undated photo. The Italian mother, who sacrificed her own life for the life of her child, was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004.

Tuesday, October 13th, 2009

Homilist —
The Reverend Edmund F. McCaffrey, Ph.D.,
former Abbott Ordinary of Belmont Abbey

Saint Patrick Cathedral
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC

5:30pm Rosary — 6pm Mass — 7pm Dinner

\$50 per person by RSVP — seating is limited
Fundraising presentation to follow



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FOUNDATION

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

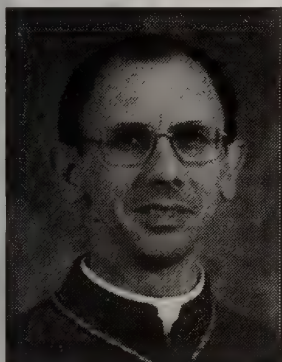
5TH DIOCESAN EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2009

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to participate in our Eucharistic Congress on Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Charlotte Convention Center. During this past year, the Eucharistic

Congress committee has devoted many hours of selfless labor to prepare for this joyful event, and I am grateful for the service they have given to the Lord and to the Church.

The Eucharistic Congress is a time of spiritual renewal for the whole diocese. Our faith is strengthened when we come together with our brothers and sisters from across the diocese. The Catholic population of our diocese is only about three percent of the total population, but our coming together at the Eucharistic Congress reminds us that the Church is a big family after all, and that we have many brothers and sisters throughout the 46 counties of the diocese who share our faith.

Our faith and our love for the Lord are strengthened when we join thousands of our brothers and sisters in the eucharistic procession through the streets of Charlotte. Our faith is also strengthened when we join thousands of our brothers and sisters in the eucharistic Holy Hour of adoration and in the Vigil Mass at the close of the congress. We see how marvelously the Eucharist brings us together as one. We, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one Eucharistic Lord. The Eucharist strengthens our unity as a diocesan family, and makes us grow in faith and charity.

The holy card for this year's congress depicts the mystery of the Annunciation, when the archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin that she was to be the Mother of God. This holy card was chosen because it illustrates the theme of the Eucharistic Congress: "The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us." In the mystery of the Annunciation, the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the mystery of the Eucharist, the Word continues to make his dwelling among us as he changes bread into his flesh and wine into his blood.

Christ is really and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist. He is truly dwelling among us.

This year's congress begins on Friday evening, Sept. 25 with a concert of sacred music, followed by an inspiring keynote address by Immaculée Ilibagiza. After her talk, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 10 p.m. for all night adoration at St. Peter Catholic Church.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, we start the day with a Eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte. The procession goes from St. Peter Church to the convention center. After the procession, Bishop Felipe Estévez, the Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, will deliver the homily during the Holy Hour.

During the day we will hear from an array of very inspiring speakers — Father Tad Pacholczyk, Father Leo Patalinghug, Father Walter Lawson, Immaculée Ilibagiza, Maria de la defensa Michel, Milton Lopez and "The Donut Man." Children, teens, adults and Hispanics have separate programs with messages specifically directed to them. Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of confession are available during the day.

The day culminates with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the convention center with everyone participating. My brother priests will join me in the concelebration of the Eucharist. This Mass will fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation.

On the following pages you will find more detailed information, as well as a map of the procession route. Other information is available at the Web site www.goEucharist.com.

The Eucharistic Congress is a unique opportunity for us to come together each year in faith and love to proclaim Christ our savior. I look forward to seeing you at this event, which is a great blessing for our diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

Watching and participating in the eucharistic procession

THE ROUTE

The eucharistic procession, led by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, at St. Peter Church, South Tryon Street and First Street. (First communicants with parent or guardian, clergy, religious and banner carriers should gather on Tryon Street south of St. Peter Church at 8:30 a.m.)

The procession will head north on Tryon Street for two blocks, then turn east onto Martin Luther King Boulevard for one block. The procession will then turn south onto College Street to the Charlotte Convention Center.

People of the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to line the procession route.

TO PARTICIPATE

As the Blessed Sacrament comes near, it is the custom to be silent and kneel until the monstrance passes.

After the Blessed Sacrament passes by, look for your parish's banner. When your parish banner passes by, you may fall in along with your parish to join in the procession. Once you have connected with your parish group, simply join in the communal prayers or just pray silently as the procession moves along.

When the procession arrives at the Charlotte Convention Center, move as directed by the ushers to enter the main hall. Proceed to the seating area, joining in the singing until the beginning of the Holy Hour.

Procession Map Legend

- PROCESSION STAGING AREA & PROCESSION CHECK-IN
- PROCESSION ENTRANCE INTO CONVENTION CENTER
- PROCESSION ROUTE
- P PARKING

Frequently asked questions about the Eucharistic Congress

What is the Eucharistic Congress?

The Eucharistic Congress is a teaching and worship event that is centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic life.

What is the schedule of events?

The Congress begins Friday evening, Sept. 25, with a program of Sacred Music at the Charlotte Convention Center.

After the program, the Eucharist will be available for adoration throughout the night at St. Peter Catholic Church, 501 South Tryon Street in Charlotte.

The events of Saturday, Sept. 26, begin at 9 a.m. with the Eucharistic Procession forming at St. Peter Church on South Tryon St. Congress attendees are asked to position themselves along the procession route and to join the procession behind the church banners.

Programs or "Tracks" at the Congress are designed for different audiences: General, Hispanic, Children, Middle

School and High School. During the day, the Eucharist will be available for adoration in a special chapel in the Convention Center. Priests will be available for confessions all day and there will be an area for vendors selling religious merchandise and offering information about Catholic schools, vocations, etc.

The Congress concludes with a Vigil Mass that begins at 4:30 p.m.

Where does the idea for a eucharistic congress come from?

The first eucharistic congress was held in Lille, France, in 1881 under the direction of Msgr. Gaston De Segur. In time, eucharistic congresses developed to their present international character.

The congress of 1908, which met in London, was the first occasion on which a representative of the pope had entered England since the Protestant Reformation. Two international eucharistic congresses

have been held in the United States — Chicago in 1926 and Philadelphia in 1976.

The Diocese of Charlotte celebrated its first eucharistic congress in September 2005.

Who is allowed to take part in the procession?

Everyone.

Leading the procession will be altar servers, first communicants, organized societies such as the Knights of Columbus, clergy and most importantly, the Eucharist.

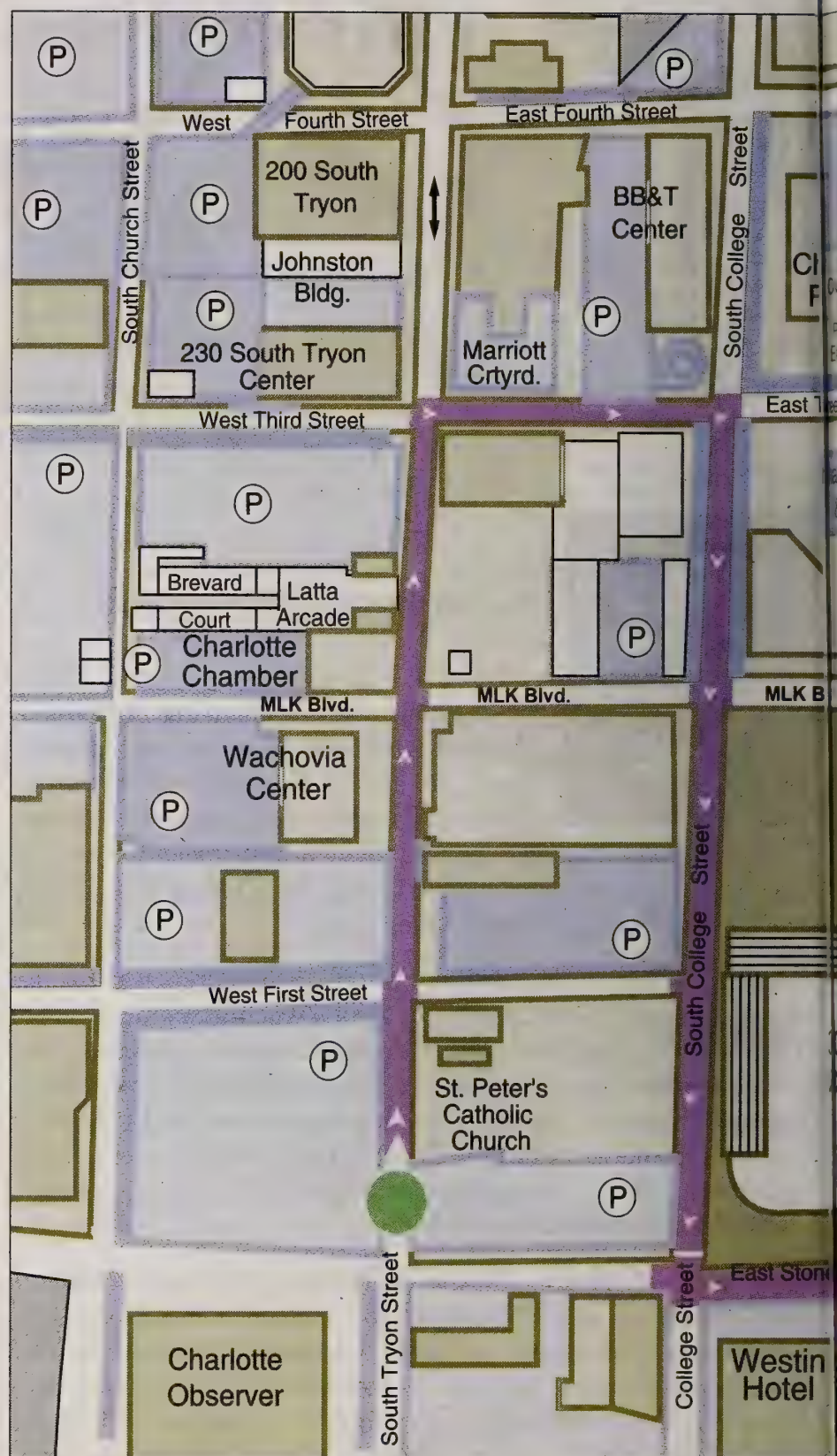
Following the Eucharist will be banner carriers representing churches, schools and organizations in the Diocese

of Charlotte.

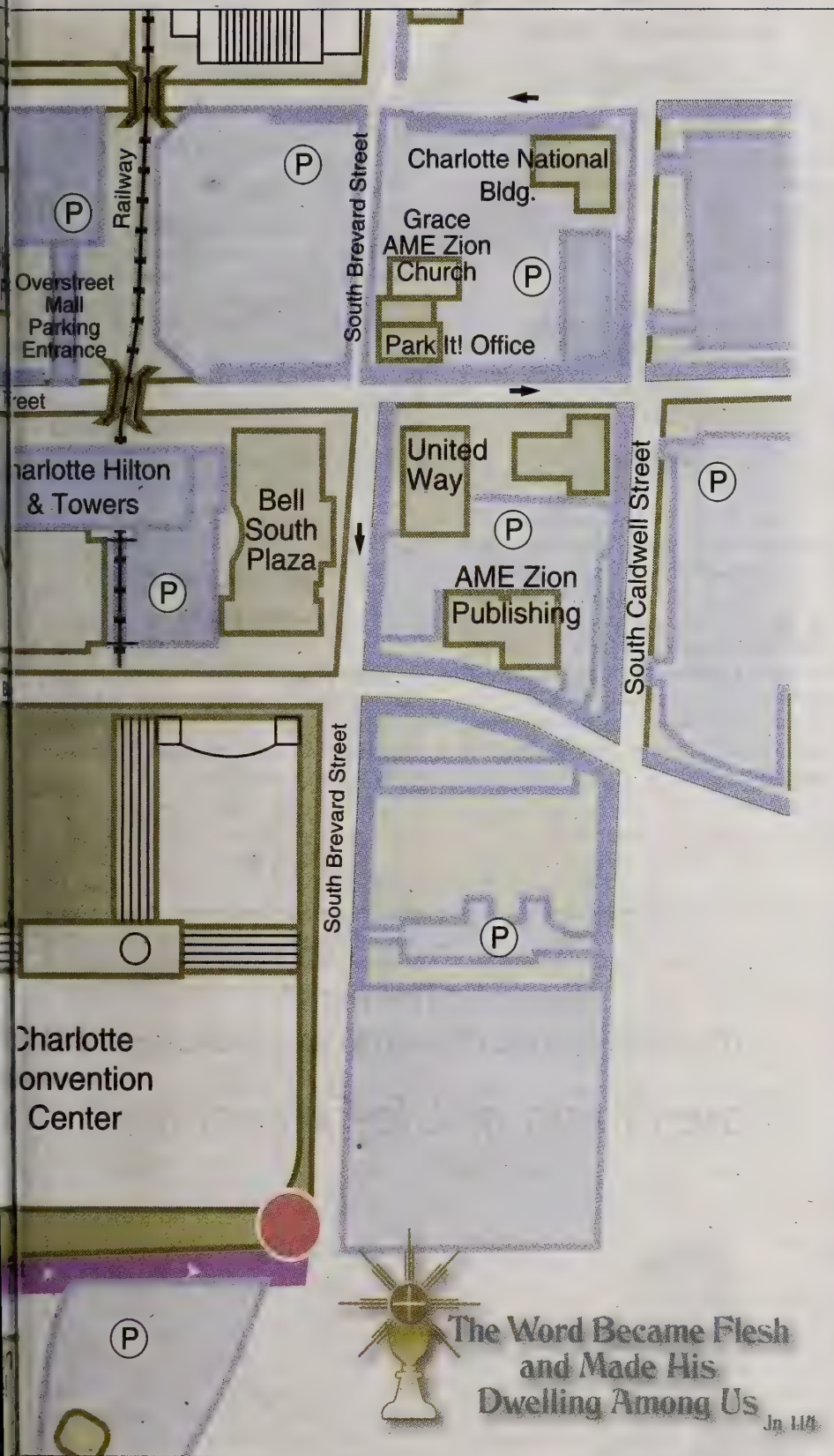
The faithful are invited to join the procession as the banners for their churches or organizations pass by.

What if I am handicapped or unable to walk in the procession?

The Charlotte Convention Center is handicapped-accessible. In addition, individuals with handicaps and those who choose not to walk in the procession are invited to witness part of the procession on the video screens in the Convention Center. For those who are hearing impaired a sign language interpreter will sign all joint services in Hall A as well as the General Track speakers in Hall A. Seating in the front rows will be reserved



PROCESSION



for the hearing impaired.

What if it rains?

The Eucharistic Congress will be held rain or shine. The procession may be moved into the Charlotte Convention Center, depending on the weather.

Where can I park?

The uptown area of Charlotte offers ample weekend parking. Visit GoEucharist.com for additional information.

What is being done to provide a secure environment for the children?

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to the "Charter for the Protection of

Children and Young People" as adopted by the U.S. bishops.

All adult volunteers at the Eucharistic Congress who will have supervisory contact with children will be required to attend the diocesan training, "Protecting God's Children." Background checks will also be performed on any adult having supervisory contact with children.

Who is speaking at the Eucharistic Congress?

The list of dynamic, inspiring speakers can be accessed by visiting the speakers' page of the Eucharistic Congress Web site at www.goEucharist.com and on page 10 of this issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

Directions to the Eucharistic Congress

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 77

At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 N/US-74 E / John Belk Frwy
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
College St / Downtown
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-NORTH

At exit 36 of Interstate 85-North, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
NC-16 / Brookshire Blvd / US-74 E / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-16 [Brookshire Blvd]
NC-16 / Charlotte / Bank of America Stadium
Road name changes to I-277 [SR-16]
At exit 1E, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
Stonewall St / South Blvd / Kenilworth Ave
Keep RIGHT to stay on Ramp
Stonewall St / Kenilworth Ave
Turn LEFT (North-West) onto E Stonewall St
Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto S College St
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-SOUTH

At exit 38 of Interstate 85 South, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-77 / US-21 / Statesville / Columbia
Take Ramp (LEFT) onto I-77 [US-21]
I-77 / US-21 / Columbia
At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
At exit 9C, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 [US-74]
I-277 / US-74 / John Belk Frwy
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
College St / Downtown
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

Will there be a Mass at the Eucharistic Congress?

Yes. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

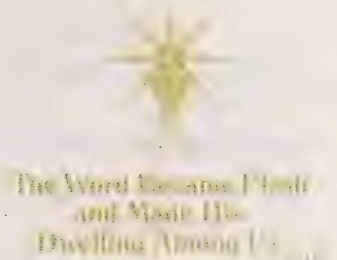
Is there a charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress?

There is no charge for any of the events associated with the Eucharistic Congress. It is estimated that staging the congress costs approximately \$30 per person who attends. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting contributions to defray the cost of staging the congress. There will be opportunities to donate at the Congress or donations can be made at www.goEucharist.com.

Will food be served?

The Charlotte Convention Center will offer a variety of foods for sale

throughout the day. Lunch will be provided at no charge for the youth attending the Children's Track, Middle School Track and the High School Track. Before and after the congress, attendees may want to take advantage of the many restaurants, hotels and attractions that are within easy walking distance of the Charlotte Convention Center.



Featured Events at the 2009 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

SACRED MUSIC PROGRAM 7 P.M.

Under the direction of Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, the Diocesan Choir will perform the following selections: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, by Ferguson; Ave Maria, by Biebl (The Angelus); O Magnum Mysterium, Victoria O Great Mystery Sicut Cervus by Palestrina, from Psalm 42; Locus Iste by Bruckner (This Place was Made by God); Come Down O Love Divine by Dietterich; Ave Verum Corpus by Plainsong Hail, true body; Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart Hail, true body; O God, Beyond All Praising by Proul.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 8:30 P.M.

"PRAYER AND SURVIVAL IN THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE"

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA, AUTHOR OF "LEFT TO TELL"

A living example of faith put into action, Immaculée's life was transformed during the 1994 Rwandan genocide where she and seven other women spent 91 days huddled silently together in a cramped bathroom. Immaculée found solace and peace in prayer. Through prayer, she eventually found it possible to forgive her tormentors and her family's murderers.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

HOLY HOUR FOLLOWS PROCESSION

THE MOST REVEREND FELIPE ESTÉVEZ

AUXILIARY BISHOP, ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

HOLY HOUR HOMILIST

A Native of Cuba he oversees the archdiocese's Ministry of Pastoral Services including family life, youth, campus, prison and Respect Life ministries, as well as all the apostolic movements.

**MASS
4:30 P.M.**

THE MOST REVEREND PETER J. JUGIS

BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

VIGIL MASS CELEBRANT AND HOMILIST

Bishop Jugis is a native of Charlotte. Ordained in 1983, he served at parishes

throughout the diocese until 2003 when Pope John Paul II selected him as Charlotte's fourth bishop.

GENERAL TRACK

"OUR LADY OF KIBEHO" IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA, AUTHOR OF LEFT TO TELL

11:45 A.M.

In 1981 the Blessed Mother appeared to a group of children in Rwanda. Mary beseeched the children to pray to prevent a terrible war which was depicted in the vision as a river of blood. Within a decade Rwanda was plunged into a genocidal civil war. Our Lady of Kibeho is the only apparition of Our Lady in Africa approved by the Vatican!

"GRACE BEFORE MEALS"

FATHER LEO PATALINGHUG

1 P.M.

Tells how the simple act of creating and sharing a meal can strengthen all kinds of relationships. "Grace Before Meals" has grown from a simple idea to a worldwide movement. Father Leo, who is a member of the faculty of Mt. St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, is making his fourth appearance at the Eucharistic Congress.

"THE SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF STEM CELLS AND CLONING"

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

2:15 P.M.

Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, he is the author of the column "Making Sense out of Bioethics" that appears in various diocesan newspapers. After earning a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University, he subsequently studied in Rome where he did advanced studies in theology and in bioethics.

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SPANISH TRACK

"PREDICAMOS A CRISTO CRUCIFICADO"

PADRE WALTER LAWSON

11:30 A.M.

Father Walter G. Lawson was born at Colon City in Panama, Central America. He was ordained as a priest on Jan. 3, 2003. He currently serves as programming director for Radio Maria in New York City.

"JESUCRISTO Y LOS MÁS NECESITADOS"

MARIA DE LA DEFENSA MICHEL

1:30 P.M.

Maria de la Defensa Michel has a Master of Civil Engineering degree and is a homemaker who is deeply dedicated to spreading the Kingdom of God through apostolic ministry. She is the author of various books and publications, including Curriculum Points of Sexual Education for Adolescents. She has extensive experience in public speaking, principally at spiritual conventions and congresses.

"JESUCRISTO EN LA VIDA DEL LAICO"

MILTON LOPEZ

2:30 P.M.

Milton Lopez was born in the Republic of El Salvador. After a good Catholic education with the religious order of Marist Brothers, he immigrated to New York in 1970. After a personal encounter with Christ in May 1985, he was called to work in the New Evangelization. He has performed formation workshops in the United States and Latin America.

CHILDREN'S TRACK

"THE DONUT MAN"

ROB EVANS

Rob presents the Gospel in a way that introduces young children and their families to the basic elements of the Christian faith and gives them lots to talk about when they get home.

You're Invited to Room At The Inn's Fifteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet "Fifteen Years of Life-Giving Hope"

Featured Speaker David Bereit Founder of "40 Days for Life"



David Bereit is founder of "40 Days for Life," a pro-life campaign with unprecedented results. Since 2007, more than 200,000 people have joined his peaceful campaign, saving over 1,500 babies from abortion. These results include the greater Charlotte area, with 1,000 participants, saving the lives of 150 babies. David is the Executive Director of Coalition for Life and is a popular pro-life speaker who will inspire you with his message of hope.

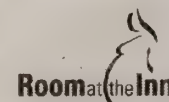
Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 22, 2009

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm

** Reservations are FREE, but required.

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@rati.org now!

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic non-profit maternity and after-care program serving the Charlotte, N.C. region. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.



Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

TRADITIONAL TUNES



CNS PHOTO/BETH DONZE, CLARION HERALD

Luc Nguyen, a parishioner and music student at Mary Queen of Vietnam Parish in New Orleans, plays a piece on the bamboo xylophone in mid-August.

Music, universal language in New Orleans

Catholic Vietnamese-American youths learn traditional Vietnamese music

BY BETH DONZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Thuy Mai Nguyen worked her 22-string zither like a magician, plucking out precise, chime-like notes with one hand, and using the other to apply varying degrees of pressure on the strings to make the notes reverberate.

The performance, held at Mary Queen of Vietnam Church in New Orleans, was part of a program of traditional Vietnamese music presented in August by 37 of the parish's children, teenagers and young adults.

In addition to showcasing how far the students had progressed on their instruments, the concert was also a poignant farewell to instructors Bo Tran, Uyen-Tram Phan and Hanh Vuong, professional music teachers from Saigon who spent their summer teaching interested parishioners the flute, the bamboo xylophone and the two-stringed Vietnamese fiddle.

"Although I left Vietnam and went halfway around the world, I felt at home here," said Phan, speaking through an interpreter after her students' recital. "I remember a priest making a statement at one of the (non-Vietnamese) churches where we played: 'Music is a universal language that somehow unites all people.' Although our music is different, people can feel it and join in with it. Music is a bridge," she said.

"The knowledge of music among the students here was very high, so in a short period of time I was able to transfer a lot to them," Vuong said, noting that her students — and the city itself — never allowed her to get homesick.

Boats moored along the Mississippi River reminded Vuong of river scenes from her native country, while Phan was struck by how older women at Mary Queen of Vietnam wore the traditional

Vietnamese headdress to Mass. The visitors were also cheered by the sight of the many fruits, gourds, herbs and trees that thrive in both New Orleans and Vietnamese gardens.

"The people of New Orleans were very welcoming and encouraging. They really enjoyed our music, so it was very heartwarming," Tran told the Clarion Herald, archdiocesan newspaper of New Orleans.

At an archdiocesan prayer service for racial harmony at St. Maria Goretti Church in New Orleans this summer, the Vietnamese musicians contributed a haunting, Asian-imbued rendition of "The Prayer of St. Francis." They also played on a rotating basis at a Mass each Sunday at Mary Queen of Vietnam.

"The gathering of the Vietnamese Catholics into a parish like (Mary Queen of Vietnam) is something very unique," said Tran, citing his amazement at finding a Vietnamese community outside the borders of his native country still practicing its language and customs. The music teachers were amused by their pupils' American-accented Vietnamese and impressed with the young people's dedication to learning the intricacies of each instrument.

"We have a lot of parishioners who play the piano, guitar, organ and drums, but we really didn't have anyone with knowledge of Vietnamese musical instruments until now," said Father Vien The Nguyen, pastor of Mary Queen of Vietnam. Father Nguyen, who had always wanted to add a music component to his parish's many cultural offerings, sought out the teachers after hearing Tran's students performing at a Filipino refugee camp in 2002.

"People (at Mary Queen of Vietnam) are very surprised and happy that in two summers this level of proficiency could be achieved," Father Nguyen said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 27, 2009

Sept. 27, Twenty-sixth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Numbers 11:25-29
Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-14
- 2) James 5:1-6
- 3) Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Trading personal gain for personal holiness

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As I tried to think of good and holy people who had followed the advice of James to seek justice and avoid the selfish greed that would cause us to treat those who work for us unjustly, I came up with a fairly long list of names.

I found many still on the list when I added the requirement, spoken of in the psalm, of scrutinizing our behavior before God, even humbly imploring him to reveal our unrecognized sins, so that we might correct our behavior.

Some were men, some women, some lay people and some priests and deacons, along with a number of religious sisters and brothers.

But particularly prominent were

four priests of varied ages who had given up wealth and public acclaim and the privileges that go along with these things.

Each had been highly successful. Two had family money. Another previously had been at the top of his field, attaining an income that allowed him to drive a fancy sports car he had thought would bring him fulfillment but still left him wanting something more.

In this weekend's Old Testament account, the Spirit of the Lord came on the two men who were not present when the Lord made his presence known to Moses and the 70 elders gathered in the tent.

In the same way, God had come to each of these priests, calling them out from their positions of privilege to pursue the higher good of serving God and his people. They responded by forsaking material wealth and the freedom to pursue personal gain so that they might speak God's words to all people, encouraging others to grow in holiness and charity.

Jesus calls all of us to be his servants where we are, to act humbly and justly, to seek the personal holiness that the psalm and the Gospel speak of, to speak and live his words. And when we act as his disciples, he will treasure us as he treasured his first disciples to whom he said, "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-26

Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37; Monday (St. Matthew), Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; Tuesday, Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; Wednesday (St. Pio of Pietrelcina), Ezra 9:5-9, Tobit 13:2-4, 6-8, Luke 9:1-6; Thursday, Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; Friday, Haggai 2:1-9, Luke 9:18-22; Saturday (St. Cosmas and Damian), Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15, Jeremiah 31:10-13, Luke 9:43-45.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3

Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48; Monday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions), Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; Tuesday (St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; Wednesday (St. Jerome), Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; Thursday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux), Nehemiah 8:1-12, Luke 10:1-12; Friday (The Guardian Angels), Baruch 1:15-22, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; Saturday, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

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Learning leadership



COURTESY PHOTO

This past summer, three St. Pius X School eighth-grade students, John Boyle, Joshua Markwell, and Harrison Plemmons, attended the 2009 Leadership University.

The conference, sponsored by youth leadership organization LeadAmerica, was held on the campus of Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif.

The students learned leadership skills such as team building, collaboration, negotiation, creative thinking and problem solving by practicing with realistic, hands-on scenarios.

The Leadership University aims to inspire and empower young people by instilling in them a sense of purpose, integrity and personal responsibility, according to Chris Salamone, founder and executive director of LeadAmerica.

Over the past 20 years, nearly 80,000 exceptional students from over 51 countries have attended the conferences.



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Marian devotion



COURTESY PHOTO

The South Rosary Group of Charlotte is pictured during a devotion to the Blessed Mother in one of the group members' homes Sept. 4.

Rosary groups have become popular among Filipino Catholics throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

During the monthly celebrations, the Blessed Mother's image is transferred from home to home and stays for one month in the house of the host family. The evening of prayer includes recitation of the rosary and novena devotion to the Santo Niño, a traditional figure of the child of Jesus which originated in Cebu, Philippines. The celebrations also include a reflection on a faith issue as presented by some of the participants.

During the past 10 years more than eight rosary groups have formed among the Filipino Catholic community throughout the diocese. The groups are not formally affiliated with particular parishes, but all the groups collaborate with local pastors for festivals in May and October.

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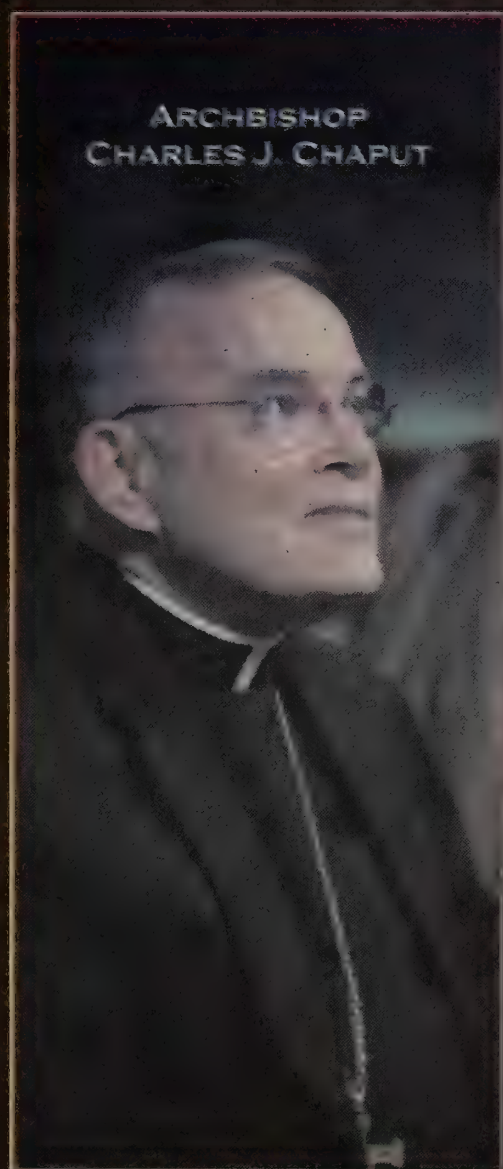
SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD ~ 2:00 & 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, OCT. 4TH ~ 2:00 PM

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GREENSBORO, NC**

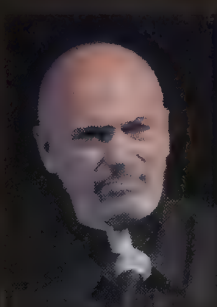
Tickets may be purchased at The Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., Greensboro 336-273-2554;
St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., Stoneville 336-573-3751;
or at the Carolina Theatre Box Office, 310 S. Greene St., Greensboro 336-333-2605
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ARCHBISHOP
CHARLES J. CHAPUT

Photo courtesy of Giovanni Portelli



FR. JOHN
CORAPI, SOLT



CARL
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GEORGE
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JOSEPH
BOTTUM



Join us as we honor Archbishop Charles J. Chaput as the Envoy of the Year in recognition of his superb book *Render unto Caesar*, and for his lifelong courageous witness to the Truth. You'll hear stirring tributes from: George Weigel, author of *The Courage to be Catholic* and *Witness to Hope*; Joseph Bottum, Editor of *First Things* magazine; Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus; and Father John Corapi, S.O.L.T. The evening, hosted by the Envoy Institute of Belmont Abbey College and emceed by Patrick Madrid, will be culminated by an inspiring talk by Archbishop Chaput himself.

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OCTOBER 8, 2009 – HILTON CHARLOTTE (NC) CENTER CITY
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Or you may also contact Joan Bradley at JoanBradley@bac.edu or 704.461.6009 to register.

Retreat emphasizes personal relationships with God

RETREAT, from page 1

Hendersonville, focused on renewal of commitment to the sacraments and the relationship we should have with Jesus through those sacraments.

Featured speaker Augustinian Father Michael P. Sullivan, of the Augustinian Preaching Apostolate at Villanova University, led the retreat in a theme of relationships.

The series was organized around four talks. "To Be Born Again" focused on baptism. "The Healing Love of Jesus" spoke of forgiveness and referred to the sacrament of reconciliation. "The Call to Be Church" included reflections about St. Peter and church leaders, as well as the relationships of marriage. "Our Response to Christ's Call" focused on the sacraments of the Church, particularly the Eucharist.

Father Sullivan said that finding Catholic connections and celebrating beliefs held by the Catholic Church had to development of more lasting and deeper relationships, first with Jesus, then with everyone we meet.

Father Sullivan, who celebrated 40 years in the priesthood on the final day of the retreat, has been working full-time with retreat work and parish renewal preaching since 1980.

"During high school, I went to Fordham Summer School of Catholic Action and admired the priests who were speaking," said Father Sullivan. "I thought that one day I would like to do that, and after eight years as a parish priest, I asked my superiors if they would allow me to speak to groups of Catholics."

During this one-year experience, Father Sullivan was given the opportunity to see if he could do anything with his passion for oration and preaching. It has since grown into a commitment that requires national travel to speak at

various parishes almost every week of the year.

With appearances scheduled three years in advance, Father Sullivan is a much-appreciated and in-demand speaker for Catholics eager to hear his humor and share in his enthusiasm for the faith.

Barbara Wilde, leader of the Evangelization Committee at the church was initially disappointed when Father Sullivan's scheduled appearance in February had to be cancelled due to a snow storm in Hendersonville.

The initial disappointment was replaced with elation when the rescheduled event fell on Labor Day weekend. This meant more parish members, who typically reside in Florida during the winter months, would be able to attend.

"It has been a magnificent turnout, the church has been full," said Wilde. "He combines humor and tells us things we've known all our lives, but through these talks, he has us renewing our relationship with Jesus."

Examining each sacrament, participants found themselves changed by the message, while hearing the Word of the Gospels on a personal level.

"There has been something every night," said John DiFiore, a parishioner who attended with his wife. "It gave me a different attitude toward my marriage, toward people, and toward dealing with my anger."

Throughout the retreat, Father Sullivan placed emphasis on renewing the relationship we have with Jesus and bringing that into the relationships we have with others.

"It's been good seeing our church come together in community for a common purpose to deepen our relationship with Christ," said Bob Lange, who leads Bible study classes at the church.

"This has caused us to re-examine where we are in our relationship with



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMEIDER

Featured speaker Augustinian Father Michael Sullivan walks the aisles of Immaculate Conception Church at the "Time of Grace" retreat in Hendersonville Sept. 6. Father Sullivan led the three-day retreat, noting that improved relationships with God ultimately enhance relationships in the community.

God," said Joann Kelly, parishioner and retreat attendee. "We need to build a better relationship with God and that will lead to making our relationships with others better," she said.

"It has opened our hearts about things we don't really talk about during regular Mass," added his wife Nancy Lange. "We are making sense of some of our everyday concerns and it has us thinking more about things beyond the moment."

A reception was held at the conclusion of the retreat. Many of the hundreds who attended joined together for further fellowship. They sought ways to apply the lessons to the ministries throughout the communities in which they are already involved.

"Doing follow-up on this will make

a difference in our lives from this time forward," noted parishioner Jim Moon.

"As an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to Hospice, it will be particularly helpful in dealing with others," said Moon. "We will have those relationships both vertically and horizontally, with the Cross and with others."

Benefits from the retreat are expected to continue as Immaculate Conception Church brings the relationship with Christ into a fuller and more complete union within the parish and throughout the community.

"We need to nurture (all) the seeds that were planted," said Capuchin Franciscan Pastor Nick Mormando, pastor. "The graces will flow through this parish."

A witness to faith

Looking back 800 years, religious order sets sights on future

BY ANDREW JUNKER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PHOENIX (CNS) — Founded in 1210 by former Belgian crusader Blessed Theodore de Celles, the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross — or, more simply, the Crosiers — has shown an ability to reconstitute itself and adapt to the needs of the times over the past 800 years.

Crosier Father Tom Carkhuff

said that in recent years the order has found "a much better balance and appreciation" for the communal life, a boon for the Crosiers.

When looking to move their provincial headquarters to Phoenix in 2007, he said they saw an opportunity to help show locals an example of the religious life.

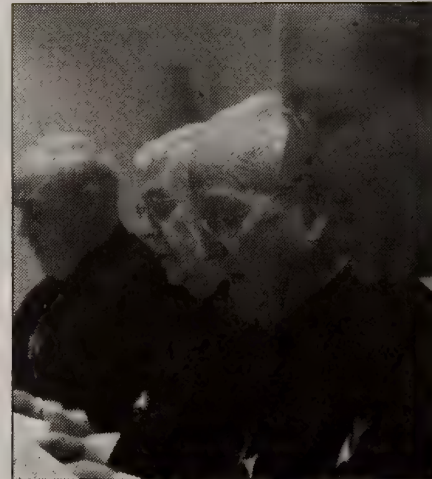
"When we were looking at the Valley, a big part was the witness of religious life," he said. "That's clearly

one of the greatest gifts we and our men bring — whether it's in the jail, in spiritual direction or in weekend liturgies."

And as they look toward the future, the Crosiers hope to promote their religious life even more. They've begun a program called Companions of the Cross, where they train lay people in their charism.

"What I see there are men who are living the life they professed and doing it with joy, and there's going to be enough visibility there of being able to draw people in to pray with us," said Crosier Father Steven Henrich, prior of Phoenix's two Crosier priories.

"I also see us as being a place that will serve immigrants, issues of the elderly, hospice as being a part of the campus," Father Henrich said. "I see it as a large community — Crosiers and laypeople who are working together. We see this as a real opportunity."



CNS PHOTO BY ANDREW JUNKER, CATHOLIC SUN

Some Crosier brothers and priests gather for midday prayer at their Phoenix priory Sept. 3. Celebrating its 800th anniversary, the Crosier order is looking forward to training laypeople in a new program called Companions of the Cross.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Lessons in brevity

Be concise or you won't be able to tweet

R U my BFFE Catholic? Do you tweet or have a page on Facebook?

I have spoken with young adults who do both: tweet to their friends and family via Twitter and share photos on Facebook. I also know people who won't touch it for various reasons, not the least of which is that it takes an inordinate amount of time to keep up with all the electronic communication.

I tend to fall into this category: It takes too much time to update a Facebook page, understand what someone tweeted or put my glasses on so that I can text or tweet a message to someone else. My fallback position is to use the telephone and call whomever I'm trying to message.

While I readily admit I'm not sure how I lived until cell phones became ubiquitous, I am not drawn to the latest electronic media. I see the dangers of too much or too little information circulating, especially when tweeting allows for no more than 140 characters.

Accepting that no one tweeting

or blogging or uploading photos to Facebook is looking for an "A" in English, these media do provide ways to reach out to young people who might otherwise be unreachable by the usual means of evangelization.

Over the years, one piece of truth keeps coming back to me: If you want to talk to people about their faith, listen, learn and preach the Gospel; you can't wait until folks cross the threshold of the church. You have to go where they are and meet them in their own milieu.

Before the electronic explosion, people — especially young people — met at coffeehouses or someplace on college campuses. They still do, but they also depend on their electronic social networking to keep in touch with family and friends.

Although some extreme cases of abuse of Twitter and Facebook make headlines, these media have contributed positively to world communication, especially, for example, during the Iranian elections when people tweeted

Guest Column

BY LIZ QUIRIN
GUEST COLUMNIST



and texted and e-mailed video of what was really happening at rallies and other gatherings.

In short, the church has an opportunity to use the new electronic media to spread the Gospel, to interact with people, to influence young people in ways they could not have imagined in earlier times.

However, I would add a cautionary note: When the church engages in this kind of communication, whoever sends the messages into cyberspace must know and understand the new media, especially in terms of communicating a truth in very few words or characters.

Lengthy messages won't work with young adults used to transmitting quick, short ideas to each other via our many electronic highways.

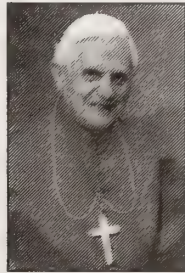
Our leaders will have to "write tight" or be unable to use Twitter for evangelization. If I had to boil down a message, a tweet, as it were, it would be: "Jesus lives in you. Believe it. Act on it. Pass it on."

Liz Quirin is editor of The Messenger, newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill.

Respond to hatred with love, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When one's love for others is so great that he or she can respond to hatred with love and forgiveness, God is truly present in that person's heart, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Only divine love can open our hearts to other people and make us sensitive to their needs, make us think of them as brothers and sisters, and invite us to respond to hatred with love and to offense with forgiveness," the pope said.

The pope led his weekly general audience Sept. 15 in the Paul VI hall before about 8,000 pilgrims from around the world.

Getting to truly know God doesn't happen from reading books, the pope said, "but from spiritual experience and a spiritual life."

To know God, the faithful must first start a journey of "inner purification that begins with a conversion of heart which comes from the strength of faith and love," he said.

Then the faithful must experience "deep repentance and sincere regret for one's sins in order to reach union with Christ, who is the source of joy and peace," he said. With this inner purification and conversion, "the Holy Spirit can really become present in us and guide us," he added.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's catechesis focuses on the life of Symeon, an Eastern monk known as the "New Theologian". He was born in 949 in Asia Minor. As a young man, he moved to Constantinople to embark on a career in the civil service but, during his studies, he was shown a work called *The Spiritual Law* by Mark the Monk which completely changed his life. It contained the phrase: "If you seek spiritual healing, be aware of your conscience. Do everything it tells you and you will find what is useful to you". From that day on, he made it his way of life always to listen to his conscience. He became a monk and his life and writings, collected afterwards by a disciple, reflect Symeon's deep understanding of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the life of all the baptized. Symeon teaches us that Christian life is an intimate and personal communion with God. True knowledge of God comes, not from books, but from an interior purification through conversion of the heart. For Symeon, union with Christ is not something extraordinary, but the fruit of the baptism common to all Christians. Inspired by Symeon's life, let us pay greater attention to our spiritual life, seeking the guidance we need to grow in the love of God.

Blogging and the church

The challenges, opportunities of the new media

I am NOT a dinosaur. Technology-wise, that is. I may not Twitter. I don't have a Facebook page (my wife and kids do); nor do I have my own Web site. At least not yet.

But neither am I completely clueless about today's communications technology. I get all my news and most of my mail on my computer. My cell phone handles the occasional text from my kids. Even my latest book can be downloaded onto Kindle, that newfangled electronic reading device. And I keep up with the doings of the Catholic blogosphere.

Blogs are the 21st-century version of the printing press which give just about anyone with a computer or cell phone the ability to offer (and often inflict on) the world their comments, observations, demands, criticisms and praise.

And far too often without complete information or any sort of filter.

Blogs are part of the new media, a high-tech spider web that is rapidly wrapping its electronic strands around our lives, giving us millions of personal Web pages, podcasts and social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and MySpace.

Just as the printing press in Benjamin Franklin's Colonial era made every scribbler an opinion-shaper, the Web today has made everyone — for better or for worse — a news commentator.

That has great implications for the church, where the people in the pews historically have had little ability to voice their opinions.

Like traditional journalism, which is responding to new media by offering its own blogs, public reporting and more, the church is finding rich opportunity — and some concern — in the blogosphere. Consider that Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley's blog is one of many by bishops ... and worthwhile reading as well.

Even the Vatican has taken notice.

The papal spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said earlier this year that the church recognizes the Internet's "chorus of voices" and that Vatican news often provokes a flurry of comments on the Web, positive and negative.

Despite the new media's "potential for manipulation," he said the church must use it to "keep the truths of the faith in close touch with the emerging culture and the younger, growing generations."

So Vatican officials — including Pope Benedict XVI — have begun using YouTube videos, podcasts and even text messaging as communications tools.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic News Service, and many dioceses and parishes have also adopted Facebook, Twitter and blogging.

Guest Column

BY
TOM SHERIDAN
GUEST COLUMNIST



In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Cardinal Francis E. George offers regular e-mail messages of reflection and Scripture. In addition, there's a weekly blog on the archdiocesan Web site by the cardinal and church officials providing news, viewpoints and other information to help Catholics understand their faith.

Surely the future holds the promise of more electronic connection, not less. For instance, use your cell phone to find the Mass schedule for the nearest church when on vacation.

Or download the prayers of the Divine Office to your iPhone. I've even checked out an "app" to aid daily prayer.

See, I told you I wasn't a dinosaur.

Tom Sheridan is a former editor of The Catholic New World, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and a deacon ordained for the Diocese of Joliet, Ill. He writes from Ocala, Fla.



The Word Became Flesh
and Made His
Dwelling Among Us

Jn 1:14



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- All Night Eucharistic Adoration
- Catholic Shops



Immaculée Ilibagiza, author "Left to Tell"
Prayer and survival in the Rwandan genocide



SATURDAY 9 AM – 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour: Homilist – The Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Florida

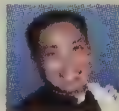
Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM Homilist – Bishop Peter J. Jugis

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catholic Shops

GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Father Tad Pacholczyk
"The Science and Ethics of
Stem Cells and Cloning"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Grace Before Meals"



Immaculée Ilibagiza
"Our Lady of Kibeho"

HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Maria de la Defensa Michel
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Padre Walter Lawson
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Milton Lopez
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

K-5 TRACK



Rob Evans
"The Donut Man"

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

O.A.T.H. Brothers and L.I.H.M. Sisters

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Catholic Charities answer increased need

Annual report cites recession in 10 percent client roll increase

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WOODBIDGE, Va. — In a time of recession, Sondra knows she and her four-year-old daughter Hope could be on the street.

Forced to flee an abusive relationship with her husband, Sondra, 45, who asked that her last name not be used, had nowhere to turn. Her time at the emergency shelter was limited. While Sondra had a job as a custodian at a local church, there was no way she could afford an apartment. There was no chance of moving back home, even if she and her husband could reconcile; their home had gone into foreclosure.

Enter St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences in Woodbridge, Va. It's where Sondra and Hope now have a home.

It is a peaceful, cozy and, most importantly, safe place where they can enjoy dinner every evening. It is where they can read and play and learn together.

"I love it here," she said.

A program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., the residence brings stability to nine single mothers and their children, most of whom have escaped domestic violence. The only transitional housing setting of its kind in the Arlington Diocese, the program helps women build self-sufficient lives.

See CHARITIES, page 7

Classroom innovations

MACS teachers awarded grants

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The energy in the room was electric as 42 teachers from all eight schools of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) system were awarded grants at the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte Sept. 18. Awards totaled a record \$47,867 to support 25 innovative educational programs.

From science and mathematics to writing and music, these teachers have the edge on teaching innovations for their students in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"This is just so exciting!" said Melissa Kurek, English teacher at Holy Trinity Middle School. Kurek was awarded funds to implement a Battle of



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Elizabeth Lerner, teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School, is pictured Sept. 22 while utilizing calculators to teach a lesson in her classroom. Lerner, who won funds for her program Calculator-inspired Learning, is one of 42 teachers who collectively earned \$47,867 Sept. 18. Grants were presented by the MACS Education Foundation to enrich and expand Catholic education through innovative teaching programs.

See TEACHERS, page 5

CATECHISTS IGNITE FAITH



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY, CORRESPONDENT

Father Roger Arnsperger, vicar of education for the Diocese of Charlotte, is pictured leading catechists and presenters in the Liturgy of the Hours during the opening ceremony for Lighting the Fires of Faith at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Sept. 19.

Lighting the fires of faith

Catechists across diocese assemble for classes in Greensboro

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — More than 200 catechists from 20 parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte flocked to St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro to attend the 15th session of Lighting the Fires of Faith Sept. 19.

The assembled catechists were greeted by Father Roger

Arnsperger, vicar of education for the Diocese of Charlotte, who said that "catechesis brings us into an intimate communion with Jesus Christ."

Father Arnsperger explained that catechist success is based upon personal spirituality and the continuous practice of the faith "as you faithfully attend Mass and show your love for Christ in

See CATECHISTS, page 9

Culture Watch

Honoring right to life;
Pope holds meteorite;
remembering Henry Gibson

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Around the diocese

Cultivating catechesis;
Knights of Columbus

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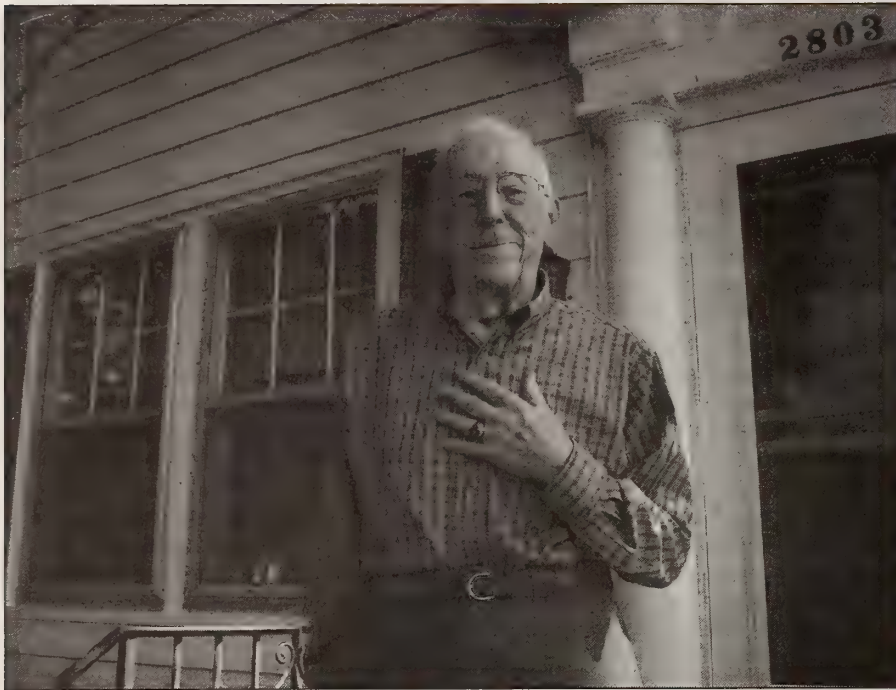
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

MORE THAN A RING



CNS PHOTO BY BARB ARLAND-FYE, THE CATHOLIC MESSENGER

Walter Dray Sr., 92, of Davenport, Iowa, displays his 1940 class ring from the University of Notre Dame. The ring went missing 52 years ago when he lost it in a Wisconsin lake. But he and the ring were reunited after a Wisconsin lawyer discovered it in a collection of jewelry his late father acquired years ago while combing beaches and lakes with a metal detector.

Notre Dame alum reunited with missing class ring after 52 years

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Walter Dray Sr. treasured his 1940 class ring from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He even wore it in place of a wedding ring, with the blessing of his wife, Peg.

When the Davenport businessman and father of eight lost the ring in 1957 at the bottom of a Wisconsin lake, he was heartbroken, but Peg assured him the ring eventually would be found.

She was right, but unfortunately did not live to see the joy the ring's return would bring to her husband. Fifty-two years after it disappeared, the ring is back on Dray's finger. He believes it's a gift from his late wife, with God's blessings.

"The whole thing is sort of miraculous," Dray said, happily wearing the gold ring with a blue stone.

The reunification of Dray, now 92, and his ring is a story within a story.

Years ago, a Wisconsin retiree named John MacDonald took up a metal-detecting hobby and found numerous pieces of jewelry while combing beaches and lake bottoms. MacDonald died years ago and the jewelry sat in his wife's closet, said their son, Drew MacDonald, a real estate planning attorney in Appleton, Wis.

The younger MacDonald began a quest to find the owners of the long-lost heirlooms that were traceable.

"I help people plan for their family heirlooms to be passed on to the next generation and here I am sitting with a box of heirlooms and I want to get

them back to their owners," he told The Catholic Messenger, newspaper of the Diocese of Davenport.

MacDonald found the inscription "Walter Dray Class of 1940" etched on the inside of Dray's ring. He contacted the Notre Dame Alumni Association in early July inquiring about the ring's owner.

"They said, to my surprise, that the gentleman who graduated in 1940 was still alive and they asked if he could give me a call," he said.

Dray called MacDonald July 8.

"He was so incredibly happy you couldn't believe it," MacDonald said. "His faith that he was going to get this ring back was incredible. He was under the complete belief that his wife helped guide it back home to him."

The recovery of Dray's ring gives him a comforting sense of Peg. Longtime members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Davenport, the couple had been married 66 years when she died in October 2007.

Dray lost the class ring while swimming and snorkeling with his kids during a family trip to the lake. Dray's children wanted to get a replacement ring for their father, but his wife advised against it.

"Peg said, 'You're going to find that ring. Someday it's going to come back.' And here it is more than 50 years and it came back!" Dray said. "My kids say that's Peg's gift. She wanted to give me a gift. That's the way I feel about it. This was a gift from Peg."

Georgia attorney named to head CLINIC

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Georgia immigration attorney, Maria Odom, has been named executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLINIC.

Odom is the principal attorney and owner of Odom Immigration Law Group in Atlanta and a former partner of the Georgia immigration firms Kuck, Casablanca & Odom and Antonini, Odom & Sullivan. She also has served as a liaison with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as a member of a committee of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and as a faculty member for continued legal education and seminars for the lawyers' group.

When she assumes the post Dec. 1, she will take over for acting executive director Mark Franken, who has held that position since longtime

director Don Kerwin left in 2008.

Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, Calif., chairman of CLINIC's board of directors, said Odom "brings a heart for the Catholic Church's social mission to migrants and their families." In a CLINIC press release, he noted she has "a strong background in providing legal services to the indigent and proven leadership in executive, financial, human resources and public relations management."

Odom is a native of Puerto Rico who moved to the United States at age 16. After receiving a bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University and a law degree from Mercer University, she began her career at the Executive Office for Immigration Review, a government agency, and has held other federal positions including as counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The Fall Women's Program at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will be held Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The program will be based on the Book of Esther and providence. The program will begin with a prayer experience of Lectio Divina. Presentations will be given by lay members of the Discalced Carmelites and the Fraternity of St. Dominic along with personal reflections on providence given by local parishioners. The program is free and includes lunch and door prizes. There will be a raffle to help defray expenses. All women are welcome. To RSVP, contact Marcia Torres at (828) 697-1235, or e-mail johnandmarciatorres@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic Women's Group (CCWG) will host a reflection featuring guest speaker Bishop William G. Curlin, Bishop Emeritus of Charlotte, at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 5. The CCWG is an inter-parish organization of lay Christian faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte. Its mission is to foster in women a greater desire to know, love and serve Jesus Christ and his church. Mass begins at 9 a.m. with the bishop's talk

following at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Molly Beckert at (704) 243-3252 or mvbeckert@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A presentation on *Our Lady of Fatima and Holy Mary and Islam* will take place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will be Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and Mike Sullivan, president of Catholics United for the Faith in Steubenville, Ohio. Light refreshments will be served after the talks. Come for fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ while we learn some fascinating facts about our Blessed Mother. For more information, contact Elizabeth Keating at ewkeating4@aol.com or Mary Sample at marysample5@aol.com or call (704) 341-9292.

CHARLOTTE — Presentations on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. and at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the office at St. Matthew Church at (704) 543-7677 or the office at St. John Neumann Church at (704) 536-6520.

CHARLOTTE — Anyone interested in learning more about the *Secular Franciscan Order* and how to become a part of this group is invited to attend an informational meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. There will be concurrent sessions in English and Spanish Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact David Romero at (704) 877-5505.

CHARLOTTE — The 67th semi-annual rosary rally will be held Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The rally will include the holy rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. The homilist will be Father Rick DeClue. Join us as we

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jurgis
INTERIM EDITOR: Heather Bellemore
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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SEPTEMBER 25, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 40

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope recognizes foreign troops' role in building peace in Afghanistan

We can never grow accustomed to" deaths and injuries resulting from violence around the world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI gave assurance of his prayers for civilians caught in the world's conflicts and foreign troops working to promote peace and development.

After praying the Angelus Sept. 20 from the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, the pope said he was deeply saddened to hear news of the deadly roadside bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, that killed 11 Afghan civilians and six Italian soldiers Sept. 17.

The deaths and injuries resulting from violence around the world "are facts we can never grow accustomed to and that incur strong reprimand and dismay in communities that hold

peace and civil coexistence close to heart," he said.

While he had special prayers for the families and friends of the Italian casualties, the pope said he was just as pained over the deaths of other international contingents "who work to promote peace and the development of institutions necessary for human coexistence."

He said he also prayed to God "with a special thought for the dear civilian population."

The pope appealed to everyone to help promote solidarity between nations and oppose "the logic of violence and death by fostering justice, reconciliation and peace and supporting the development of people, starting with love and mutual understanding."

Pope meets with Russian Orthodox official, Vatican says ties improved

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI met with a key official of the Russian Orthodox Church amid signs of a significant improvement in relations.

The Vatican provided no details of the pope's encounter Sept. 18 with Russian Orthodox Archbishop Hilarion, president of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations. The private meeting took place at the pope's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo.

Archbishop Hilarion was in Rome for five days of meetings and talks with Vatican officials and Catholic groups, at the invitation of Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's chief ecumenist.

Speaking to Vatican Radio Sept. 17, Cardinal Kasper said the church's relations with the Russian Orthodox had improved appreciably under Pope Benedict, and that the Moscow patriarchate was expected to participate in a major dialogue session with the Vatican in mid-October.

Cardinal Kasper, who is president

of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, held lengthy talks with Archbishop Hilarion during his visit. The cardinal said the reduction in tensions from a few years ago was evident in the "very calm conversation" they had about a number of issues, including theological and practical problems.

Perhaps most importantly, the Russian Orthodox will be returning to the plenary meeting of the international Catholic-Orthodox theological commission in Cyprus in October, which will take up the topic of the historic role of the bishop of Rome. The Russian Orthodox delegation walked out of the commission's last plenary session in 2007 in an inter-Orthodox dispute that has since been resolved, Cardinal Kasper said.

Cardinal Kasper said he had suggested that the Orthodox churches form some kind of bishops' conference at the European level that would constitute a "direct partner of cooperation" in such dialogue encounters. This will be a topic of discussion in coming months, he said.

honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina Vitt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — "Grace in a Competitive World," a lecture by Carolyn Woo, the Martin J. Gillen Dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, will take place in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The presentation will explore the role of grace in our work and behavior given the highly competitive practices common in our culture. Admission is free and the lecture is open to the general public with a reception to follow. For more information, contact Greg Crawford at (630) 730-2787.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The departments of Biology and Theology of Belmont Abbey College are hosting a presentation, *Catholicism and Evolution*, by Abbey graduate, Father Michael J. Kavanaugh, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont Mount Holly Rd. Father Kavanaugh's presentation will focus on how the Catholic Church understands the creation accounts of Genesis and on the current debate regarding evolution. For more information, contact Dr. David Williams at dr.fuellen@gmail.com or (704) 461-7373. The presentation is free and open to the public.

GASTONIA — A presentation on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 867-6212.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Free Spanish classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., every Thursday for eight weeks beginning Sept. 24 through Nov. 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Beginner and advanced classes are open to

everyone and class materials are furnished. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Dr. Kwan at Hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — A presentation on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. James the Greater Church, 139 Manor Ave. SW, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 720-0600.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A presentation entitled *Take Back Your Family Time*, offered by Dr. William Doherty, will take place in the Bishop Begley Parish Center of St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., Sept. 29. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. Many of today's families suffer from time famine and parental anxiety. Dr. Doherty discusses the problem of over-scheduled kids and under-connected families. He gets to the heart of the issues and encourages parents to regain their leadership. Join us for a three-part program including a large-screen DVD presentation and small group discussions with parents and facilitators. For more information, contact Mary Beth Young at yrmmarybeth@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Breaking bread together



CNS PHOTO BY KHALED AL-HARRIRI, REUTERS

Muslims eat after they break their fast during Ramadan in Damascus, Syria, Sept. 16. The Islamic holy month is a time for repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Catholics and Muslims share 'iftar'

SIDON, Lebanon (CNS) — Parish priests in South Lebanon said breaking the fast with Muslims during the month of Ramadan means more than sharing a meal.

For many Christians, sitting together for "iftar," the breaking of the fast each evening after sunset, is a chance to get to know others in the community and learn about different customs.

"We go to a lot of iftars," said Maronite Father Elias Asmar. "When we sit down together to break the fast, we get to know each other."

"We learn about their fasting, and they ask about our fasting," the priest said. "We also learn about their diets, their calendars and how they pray. These meals create an atmosphere for dialogue."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 25-26
Eucharistic Congress
Charlotte Convention Center

Sept. 29
Episcopal ordination of Bishop-Elect Luis Zamora, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta
Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta

Oct. 2 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church,
North Wilkesboro

Oct. 4-9
Annual priest retreat



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Joe Boone, parent and JV Volleyball coach at Our Lady of Mercy school in Winston-Salem, showing off some of his great finds from the rummage sale Sept. 12. The PTO hosted the sale and raised more than \$2,500 to purchase new computers for the school office and preschool.

A ministry of helping hands

Student club raises the bar for service

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

WINSTON-SALEM — A rummage sale held Sept. 12 at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem raised the bar for student service projects.

More than \$2,500 was collected to purchase new computers for the school office, and preschool through the efforts of a student service club called Helping Hands of Mercy.

Helping hands for many ministries

At Our Lady of Mercy School, the entire student body is encouraged to be involved in this service club. The commitment that the students demonstrate through a number of service projects is intended to reflect the hands of mercy.

Projects can involve the entire student body. All classes assemble food baskets for needy families, create and sell luminary kits to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Winston-Salem, as well as stage bake-offs and send cookies to families of patients involved with Hospice.

Students also collect soap, toothpaste, lotions, shampoo and other toiletries, and assemble them in cosmetic bags and send them to The Battered Women's Shelter in Winston-Salem.

Autism Awareness month is a school-wide effort for which Our Lady of Mercy has scheduled speakers and ongoing education efforts to develop student awareness of the unique needs of children with autism.

Middle school students help facilitate the running of the Forsyth County Special Olympics spring motor activity games. Fourth- and fifth-grade students show their support with sideline cheers.

All children at the school also complete school projects ranging from childcare assistance to grounds keeping.

Helping Hands of Mercy has become involved internationally. Students collect

used shoes and lightly used toys for the children of the Dominican Republic. They send them through medical mission teams from Forsyth Hospital to clinics in the Dominican Republic.

Participation in established national service organizations has been included in regular events such as the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart" competition. Students also participate in the Catholic Social Services "Wee Care" program, through which supplies and gently-used clothes are donated for newborns and their families.

Student commitment

Shirley Shaw, vice principal for Our Lady of Mercy School, recounted the story of the first project the student service group organized.

"Mercy has had a long history of being attentive to the needs of the poor, but in the fall of 2007 they organized and escalated their efforts. The first project involved the collection of satchels and backpacks for children who must be removed from their homes by Forsyth County Child Protection Services.

"On learning that these children are often given a big trash bag in which to collect their belongings when they are taken from their homes, the Mercy Mustangs got busy and collected hundreds of new and gently-used bags," said Shaw.

The effort became so popular as word spread to parents, friends and co-workers of parents that Helping Hands of Mercy continued collecting for months and was able to present the children with more than 400 bags.

"Through the insight of a relative of a staff member, Eastpack even sent a shipment of 30 beautiful new bags which were used at Christmas," said Shaw.

"It is inspiring to see what children can do to aid in the many complex challenges of living in poverty," she said.

Possible sainthood for Knights of Columbus founder

New evidence of miracle could finalize process within two years

BY JACK SHEEDY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HARTFORD, Conn. — Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said he hopes that consideration of new evidence of a possible miracle will lead to sainthood for the founder of the Knights of Columbus within two years.

Anderson made the remarks to The Catholic Transcript, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Hartford, moments before Hartford Archbishop Henry J. Mansell signed documents containing new information gathered by the tribunal that is investigating the cause for canonization for Father Michael J. McGivney.

The documents, which remain secret, were sealed Sept. 22 in the presence of about 50 witnesses and prepared for delivery to the Vatican.

Father McGivney (1852-90) was a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven. The cause for his sainthood formally began in Hartford in 1997.

Anderson said the ceremony marked "a very important day for the cause of Father McGivney because it is the conclusion of the medical evidence and assessment (of) the miracle that has been submitted, or what we hope will be considered a miracle, and so this is a very important step for us."

As to how much longer the sainthood process might take, he said, "Well, the fact that the Congregation (for Saints' Causes) has declared Father McGivney to be (a) venerable servant of God (in March 2008) means that it is now on a higher priority track, so we hope, once all the material that has been obtained through this process is assessed and put in a written report to the congregation, that they'll act with expedition. So maybe within two years."



CNS PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY, CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell of Hartford, Conn. (left) receives from Dominican Father Gabriel O'Donnell a package of sealed documents containing new evidence of an alleged miracle attributed to the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney, during a ceremony in Hartford Sept. 22. Father O'Donnell is vice postulator of the cause of Father McGivney's sainthood.



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MACS teachers awarded \$47,867 in grants

TEACHERS, from page 1

“This is just so exciting!”

— Melissa Kurek

The Books program with fellow teacher Kathleen Murray.

Awards for the 2009-2010 school year were made possible through the Annual Grants for Educational Excellence (GEE) program overseen by the MACS Education Foundation.

This year's event was scheduled on a teacher in-service date so all grant awardees could attend.

On hand to congratulate grant recipients were school principals, members of the MACS board of directors, and staff from the office of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Charlotte, including superintendent of schools Linda Cherry.

Grant winners arrived for individual photos with Bishop Jugis. Afterwards, they gathered for the awards ceremony moderated by Tom Quigley, vice chair for the MACS Education Foundation, and Benne Hudson, grants committee chair for the MACS Education Foundation. The event concluded with a catered luncheon and a group photo.

Many grant programs capitalized upon technological advancements such as the SMART board, a whiteboard that acts as a large touchscreen when a computer screen is projected onto it. Children and teachers can interact with computer programs displayed on the SMART board simply by touching the board to move the mouse or by writing with special “digital” markers.

Teachers Jennifer Cabrera, Socorro Davaz, and Maritza Ortiz use SMART board technology with special software in the Spanish TV Gameshow program at Holy Trinity Middle School.

“Kids can review for tests while they play in the classroom,” said Ortiz, who explained that foreign language vocabulary and grammar skills are reinforced in a fun way.

Some grant programs turn apparent disadvantage into opportunity. Stan Michalski, band instructor who teaches at all the MACS schools, needed resources to provide specialized instruction to students of the tuba, oboe, flute and clarinet. His Artist in Residence program received a grant for bringing members of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra into MACS schools to provide that specialized instruction.

“The vision is to have one instructor per instrument provide lessons every two weeks,” said Michalski.

Other grant programs get back to the basics, like the Wee Deliver program at St. Gabriel School.

“It’s an intra-school post office,” said Sue Cornish, St. Gabriel teacher.

“We even have street names,” added Mary Ellen Reese, St. Gabriel teacher who partners with Cornish for the Wee Deliver program.

They explained that children learn a “friendly letter format” while corresponding with each other and their parents through handwritten letters. The program also encourages art skills through a stamp design contest.

Mathematics and sciences were well-represented in the grant awards. Annie Jost, teacher at Holy Trinity Middle School, received a grant for her Outdoor Learning Science Garden program.

“Through planting, growing, eating and even naming plants, children learn about the earth through this hands-on outdoor experiment,” said Jost.

Funds will be used to convert land into a garden for the project, which Jost has previously completed with success at another middle school.

The Math in the 21st Century program addresses the persistent question, “when will I ever use this?” through real-world applications of mathematical concepts.

“This program is experiment-based,” said Jeff Prys, teacher at Holy Trinity Middle School.

“It implements a new math program through an investigative approach,” he said.

Prys will partner with teacher Michelle Marcelais for this program.

GEE applications are open to all MACS teachers, who may make proposals for individual awards up to \$1,500, and group awards up to \$3,000. The program is funded through the MACS Education Foundation, which has raised nearly \$5 million and awarded 150 GEE grants for the benefit of more than 6,000 children in MACS schools over the past 16 years.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diana Lambropoulos, grant award winner and teacher at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, is pictured Sept. 22 while utilizing the SMART board to teach a lesson in her classroom. Lambropoulos and her fellow teacher Robert Grimm received a grant for their program Technology in the 21st Century which emphasizes the use of technology as an aid to students learning hand-eye coordination and reading skills.

Is your child in the classroom of an innovator? 2009-2010 Grant Recipients

CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Calculator-inspired Learning
Mary Elizabeth Lerner

HOLY TRINITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Battle of the Books
Melissa Kurek
Kathleen Murray

Bringing Science to Life
John Dempsey
Tracey Landschoot

Mercy Matters!
Lincoln Sigwald

Outdoor Learning Science Garden
Annie Jost

Quilting: Application in Critical Thinking and Service
Lincoln Sigwald
Regina Pastula

Spanish TV Gameshow Software
Jennifer Cabrera
Maritza Ortiz
Socorro Davaz

Study Success at HTMS
Jon Klish
Molly Sequeria

Thinking Outside the Box
Ann Brown
Molly Sequeria

Brain POP! The More You Know, The More You Know
Cara Jane Brickman
Fran Cummins
Suzy Molihan

MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Artist in Residence Program (MACS)
Stan Michalski

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Afterschool Achievers, Math Club
Kitty McIndoe

Technology in the 21st Century
Robert Grimm
Diana Lambropoulos

ST. ANN SCHOOL

Listening and Learning
Susan Sullivan

Multi-Sensory Learning Project
Julie Thornley

Read Naturally Software
Patricia Miller

Web 2.0 Tools-Connecting Curriculum and Technology
Lisa Horton

ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL

Fitnessgram
Patty Martin-Wong

Read Naturally Software
Aimee Cescon

Wee Deliver
Mary Ellen Reese
Sue Cornish

ST. MARK SCHOOL

Kurtzweil 3000 Educational System
Kathryn Louis
Joan Rusterholz

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Dance Dance Revolution
Heidi Guerin
Sally Knop

Speedstacks-Cup Stacking Program
Heidi Guerin

Wildcat Writers' Café
Jessica Armstrong
Jennifer Bowman

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

Roadmap to Writing Success
Julie McGrath
Maggie Menze
Miriam Olynick
Anne Perin
Dana Vanderwood
Crystal Watts

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Standing for life

Life Chains to be held around Diocese of Charlotte

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte will soon line the streets of their cities and towns to show their support for the sanctity of human life.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life Sunday falling on Oct. 4.

To help kick off the activities during the month and show their support for life, hundreds of parishes in dioceses around the country will be participating in Life Chains.

In the Diocese of Charlotte,

parishioners will be standing along the property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

People will hold pro-life signs with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

"The Life Chain provides an opportunity for all who cherish the gift of life to prayerfully witness to others," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life program director in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"It is an ecumenical, peaceful, silent effort that has the possibility of touching hearts and changing lives."

LIFE CHAINS IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Life Chains in the Diocese of Charlotte area will be held Sunday, Oct. 4. Pro-life individuals are welcome to participate in any of the gatherings. Participants should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled start time. Life Chains include:

ANDREWS

Holy Redeemer Church will participate in the Life Chain at the intersection of highways 129 and 76 in Blairsville, Ga.

CHARLOTTE

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, at Shamrock Rd./Crestmont Dr., 1-2 p.m.

St. Ann Church, at Park Rd./Hillside Ave., 2-3 p.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral, at Kings Dr./Morehead St., 2-3 p.m.

CONCORD

St. James Church, at Hilbish Ford on Rt. 29, 2-3 p.m.

GREENSBORO

Battleground Ave. between Cornwallis Dr. and Westridge Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m. (Contact Bernie and Elaine McHale, 336-292-1118)

St. Pius X Church, "walking, living rosary for life," at 2210 N. Elm St., 12:30 p.m.

HENDERSONVILLE

US 25 starting across from the entrance to Patton Park at Clairmont Ave. and ending at 6th Ave. (US 64), 2:30-3:30 p.m. (Contact Sharon Asbury, 828-697-6188)

HUNTERSVILLE

St. Mark Church, at Stumptown Rd., 2-3 p.m.

KERNERSVILLE

Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., 10-11 a.m.

MOCKSVILLE

St. Francis of Assisi Church, along Hwy 601 in front of the church, 2-3 p.m.

SALISBURY

Sacred Heart Church, at Innes/Main Sts., 1-2 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM

Hanes Mall Blvd., west of Stratford Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Caring confirmands



COURTESY PHOTO

Four confirmation candidates from St. Therese Church in Mooresville collected nearly 800 pounds of canned goods for the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. The girls came up with the idea as a way to earn confirmation service hours. They wanted to help others in their community who are less fortunate, so they wrote a letter to their neighbors asking them to donate canned goods or non-perishable food items. The girls dropped off empty grocery bags at houses in their subdivision on Sept. 16. Three days later they collected 73 bags full of food. They delivered the food to the soup kitchen on Sept. 19.

Pictured (from left) are Sarah Woods, Taylor Stamm, Amanda Pratt and Danielle Mathews.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte

Research studies have found Natural Family Planning to be 97-99% effective when used correctly. Engaged and married couples, clergy and anyone interested in learning more about Church-sanctioned methods of natural family planning are welcome to attend. Engaged couples can receive verification of attendance to fulfill diocesan pre-Cana requirements.

INTRODUCTION CLASSES

Mooresville - St. Therese Church

October 4 - 1 pm

Charlotte - Zitel Family Chiropractic

October 16 - 7:30 pm

Concord - Northgate Family Medicine

October 21 - 7 pm

Salisbury - Sacred Heart Church

October 29 - 7 pm

CLASS SERIES

Charlotte - October 17 - 9 am

November 14 - 9 am

December 13 - 1 pm

Raleigh - Our Lady of Lourdes Church

October 4 (starting date)

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Information: (704) 370-3230

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www.cssnc.org/naturalfamilyplanning.html



COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID FOPPE

A young supporter holds a pro-life sign during last year's Life Chain in Greensboro. This year, Respect Life Sunday falls on Oct. 4.

Recession increases Catholic Charities needs

CHARITIES, from page 1

Services such as financial education classes, employment counseling and help with transportation and child care are some of the advantages for residents.

Sondra and Hope are among thousands of people who have turned to local Catholic Charities agencies for housing services when they had nowhere else to go during the current recession.

Increased numbers

The need for housing services like the St. Margaret of Cortona program as well as emergency shelter and permanent housing jumped 12.4 percent in 2008 as the economic recession gained momentum, reported Catholic Charities USA in its 2008 annual survey of services.

Released Sept. 15 during a nationwide teleconference from the agency's Alexandria headquarters, the report shows that Catholic Charities agencies served nearly 600,000 people in need of some type of housing assistance in 2008.

Overall, the 142 Catholic Charities agencies responding to the survey

— about 85 percent of the nationwide Catholic Charities network — reported serving more than 8.5 million people in 2008, a 10 percent increase from 2007.

Without being able to offer specifics, Father Larry Snyder, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, said the demand for housing and other social services continued to climb as the recession deepened during 2009.

"We can only conjecture that when we get the figures for 2009 it's going to be much, much greater," he said.

Father Snyder also said the recession is causing local Catholic Charities agencies to struggle with "many of the same challenges as our clients." Cuts in government funding for social services coupled with significant losses in donations of cash and goods are causing local agencies to scale back services, reduce hours of operation, lay off staff, freeze wages and implement workdays without pay, he said.

"It is going to continue to put a great stress on our local agencies to continue to provide services," he added.

Overall, Catholic Charities agencies had revenues of more than \$3.9 billion in 2008. Two-thirds of the revenue came from local, state and federal government sources.

Positive response

Despite the challenges posed by the recession, Father Snyder expressed optimism that the agency will be able to make strides in its nearly three-year-old campaign to reduce poverty by 50 percent by 2020.

"I actually think (the recession) gives us a greater opportunity to do that because when you look at the challenges that we have right now, one thing that should be very clear is that we can't just meet those challenges with what we were doing before," Father Snyder explained.

"Things have gotten so desperate it gives us the opportunity to really look at a solution that doesn't depend on... the social structures we had before, but to really redefine how we do it," he said.

Serving a multitude

A breakdown of the 8.5 million clients



CNS PHOTO BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

Sondra hands a cell phone to her daughter, Hope, 4, in their apartment at St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Housing in Woodbridge, Va., Sept. 17. Sponsored by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Arlington, Va., the program is helping Sondra and Hope rebuild their lives after fleeing domestic violence. They are among thousands of new clients who have sought housing-related services at Catholic Charities programs nationwide.



CNS PHOTO BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

Anita Rose and her daughter Salene, 3, residents of St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Housing in Woodbridge, Va., read together Sept. 17. Rose and Salene are among thousands of new clients who have sought housing-related services at Catholic Charities programs nationwide.

shows nearly half — 48 percent — were adults 18 to 64 years old, 29 percent were children and 13 percent were seniors. Ten percent were unknown.

Prepared by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, the survey revealed:

- Nearly 6.3 million people sought food services, a 3.8 percent decline from 2007.
- More than 3.6 million people — a 4.7 percent increase — received social services such as education, day care, programs aimed at at-risk populations, health care, and socialization and neighborhood services.
- More than 1.7 million people — an 11 percent jump — received assistance with basic needs, such as clothing, utility payments, emergency financial needs and prescriptions.
- Slightly more than 1 million

people — a 7.3 percent decline — received various services that fall under what Catholic Charities USA calls strengthening families, including counseling and mental health, addiction, pregnancy, adoption, immigration and refugee services.

- More than 330,000 people received disaster services, a decrease of 21 percent from 2007, but still nearly 60 percent more than in 2005.
- More than 67,000 people — a 35 percent spike — received employment services.

Overall, the statistics reflected the nationwide growth in poverty in 2008 reported Sept. 10 by the U.S. Census Bureau. Census data show that 39.8 million people — 13.2 percent of the population — lived in poverty last year, up from 37.3 million people, or 12.5 percent, in 2007.

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Rev. Msgr. William Wellein 1997

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Commissioning catechists



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Frank Cancro, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, presents Billy Stocker with a Certificate of Commissioning during a ceremony at the church in celebration of Catechetical Sunday. This certificate is awarded to individuals who complete all six modules of the catechist recognition process. These modules are the core curriculum areas of formation and include the call to be a catechist, skills and theory, sacraments, creed, morality, and sacred Scripture. Billy also received a certificate of completion for his service as a catechist for the past five years. Also pictured is Cris Villapando (left), director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, and Dennis Teall-Fleming, faith formation leader at the parish. SEE RELATED ARTICLE ON PAGE 14.

Catechizing the catechists



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Roger Arnsparger, vicar of education in the Diocese of Charlotte, is shown conferring with campus ministers Matthew Newsome and Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo at an education vicariate in-service workshop Sept. 10.

Approximately 80 people attended the in-service workshop which was held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Participants included Catholic school personnel, faith formation leaders, youth ministers, campus ministers and young adult ministers.

Father Arnsparger presented the topic "Building a Foundation: Engaging and Implementing the National Directory for Catechesis."

The presentation included an overview of the National Directory for Catechesis, a breakdown of the seven characteristics of catechesis and an assessment of the strengths and challenges of catechetical programs.

Grand gratitude



COURTESY PHOTO

Grand Knight Tom Riley of Knights of Columbus Council 6700, presents Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, with a plaque at the church Sept. 20. The plaque was presented to Father Arnsparger in gratitude for his support of the council and in honor of the Year of the Priest.

Newly elected officers



COURTESY PHOTO

The newly installed officers of the Knights of Columbus Council 11946 in Shelby are pictured with Father Michael Kottar, council chaplain and pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby, during an installation gathering at the church Sept. 19.

Pictured (from left) are John O'Daly, district deputy; Father Michael Kottar, chaplain; Dan Brown, warden; Ernst Borchert, treasurer; Erick Stockham, advocate; David Judge, grand knight; Paul Pasco, financial secretary; Robert Borkhardt, deputy grand knight; Anibal Angel, guard; and Jim Welter, insurance representative.

Take Back Your Family Time

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professor and director of the

Marriage and Family Therapy Program, University of Minnesota

Tuesday, September 29 — 7 PM



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Many of today's families suffer from time famine and parental anxiety. Dr. Doherty discusses the problem of over-scheduled kids and under-connected families. He gets to the heart of the issues and encourages parents to regain their leadership.

The Formational Ministries Commission of Saint Leo the Great Church invites you to a three-part program including a large screen DVD presentation and small group discussions with parents and facilitators.

The Bishop Begley Parish Center, Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church
335 Springdale Avenue, Winston-Salem

Catechists light fires of faith

CATECHISTS, from page 1

the love we give one another."

He added, "With an authentic spiritual life, a strong missionary zeal, and an active participation in our local parishes, you must spend time in eucharistic adoration to engage the noisy world."

Attendees were encouraged to live prayer-filled lives so that their catechesis would bring growth to their parishes. To this end, Father Arnsperger stressed the need for the catechists to become active members of the whole diocese. He said everything they do must lead to an authentic faith in Christ.

Father Arnsperger then led the community of catechists in the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer of the church.

Catechists speak from experience

First-year catechist James Jeffries of St. Mary Church in Greensboro remarked on the classes he took this year.

"I've come here today because I believe this would help me as I continue on my religious journey back home to God," said Jeffries, a recent Catholic convert. "I've learned that I must allow God to speak through me to the children as I use all the modern technology available."

Regular attendees of the Lighting the Fires of Faith series find continuing value in the classes.

"I came today to learn more about my faith and to learn how to feel better about myself as I discover ways to relate to and teach the young people of the parish," said Julie Michaels, catechist for Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington. "I love coming to these classes because they demonstrate ways to improve teaching and they are very spiritually uplifting."

After achieving Level One certification from 11 years of work, Muriel Hughart of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville said now she can relax a little.

"However, I will still give my time and talent to the church for a few more years in appreciation of the gifts (with which) God has blessed me," said Hughart.

Hughart's most recent class focused on the Creed. She said this class helped her better understand the power of prayer offered by the Creed.

A gathering with growing purpose

The Lighting the Fires of Faith gathering was developed as an opportunity for catechists to share thoughts, ideas, and experiences they could use in their efforts to teach children.

"From the very beginnings of the diocese, it was expected that the faith formation leaders were to



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY, CORRESPONDENT

Catechists register for classes at the Lighting the Fires of Faith XV at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Sept. 19.

facilitate the Level One certification for catechists in the local parishes," said Sister of Providence Betty Paul, northern area regional coordinator for faith formation.

"The goal is to offer catechists personal and uplifting classes, which would lead to the certification of the individual catechists throughout the diocese," said Sister Paul.

She attributed the large number of catechists who signed up for a class named "Called to be a Catechist" to the incredible turnover of catechists in the parishes. At the same time, she indicated that the faithful who still attend Level Two courses are committed to their calling.

Sister Paul looks to the future with hopes of expanding upon opportunities to promote leader formation, like those available through Lighting the Fires of Faith. Her vision includes plans to advance parish catechetical program leader formation so those leaders are then enabled to support their parish catechists.

Sister Paul concluded by saying that she felt "greatly privileged to be able to work on the regional level supporting the catechetical leaders in their own environment, with these opportunities to gather as community."

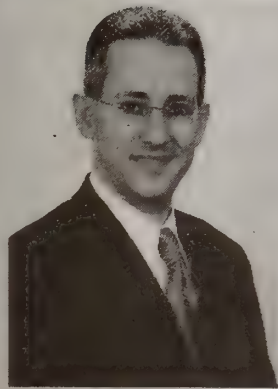
Contact correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY, CORRESPONDENT

Catechists and presenters depart for classes after the opening ceremony for Lighting the Fires of Faith XV at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Sept. 19.

You're Invited to Room At The Inn's Fifteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet "Fifteen Years of Life-Giving Hope"



Featured Speaker David Bereit Founder of "40 Days for Life"

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

RIGHT TO LIFE IN LUXEMBOURG



CNS PHOTO BY LOLA VELASCO, COUR GRAND-DUCALE DE LUXEMBOURG

Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, is winner of the 2009 Cardinal Van Thuan prize for his defense of the right to life and freedom of religion. The award is given in honor of the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, who spent 13 years in prison under the communist regime in his country.

Honoring right to life, freedom of religion

Grand Duke of Luxembourg receives 2009 Cardinal Van Thuan Prize

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Grand Duke of Luxembourg was awarded the 2009 Cardinal Van Thuan Prize for his efforts in defending the right to life and freedom of religion, the Vatican said.

The prize, which included a special silver medal and a certificate, was given to Henri, the grand duke, at a ceremony in Rome Sept. 16.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said at a press conference Sept. 15 that the grand duke had been chosen "for his efforts in the defense of human rights, but especially for the right to life and religious freedom."

The grand duke lost his right to veto in late 2008 when he refused to sign a law legalizing euthanasia in the tiny European country, earning the respect of Catholics and others who oppose euthanasia.

Cardinal Martino said the grand duke, who is married with five children, is worthy of the Van Thuan prize, which is "tailored to people who live according to their faith and put it into practice in their daily lives."

The grand duke met with Pope Benedict XVI in a private audience at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome, the day after the ceremony.

The award is given in honor of the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, who spent 13 years in prison under

the communist regime in his country before fleeing to Rome in 1991. He died of cancer at age 74 in September 2002, after serving as president of the justice and peace council.

A cause for sainthood of the late cardinal is under way, with the Diocese of Rome collecting his writings as part of the process.

Some of that written material, in the form of prayers and poems, was put to music by Msgr. Marco Frisina, composer and choirmaster, and performed at the awards ceremony.

Four humanitarian organizations working in underdeveloped parts of the world also will receive about 22,000 euros (\$32,400) each for excellence in their fields from the St. Matthew Foundation, which established the Van Thuan prizes last year. They are:

— Cooperation Mission and Development, based in Thailand, which builds and establishes parishes in Africa, Asia and South America.

— ALAS, a project of the Path of Freedom organization run by the Archdiocese of Bogota, Colombia; the project assists incarcerated people and their families.

— Skills Development Center for the Blind, a center in Thailand that trains blind people in motor skills and vocations such as Thai massage.

— Le Rocher, an association that aids street people in France and helps them return to society.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 4, 2009

October 4, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 128:1-6
- 2) Hebrews 2:9-11
- 3) Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Not meant to be alone

A 'communion of persons' in the sacrament of marriage

BY JEFF HEDGLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Having a master's degree in theology and working for the church can get me in trouble, or at least scoffed at, from time to time.

While back, my wife and I were having a light-hearted discussion about "bedroom" matters with a group of married friends. I put forth the idea that the consummation of marital love is symbolic of the total self-giving of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit among each other and suggested this is a primary reason for the sacrament of matrimony. When we give ourselves to each other out of love, we mirror the Trinity.

One person laughed and said, "I never think about that at such times."

I shrugged it off, and we moved on

to other topics, but the comment stayed with me.

Our society has reduced sex to a selling point for material goods and a recreational activity for the partaking of any and all. The problem with this is that God has a much deeper and fulfilling purpose for marriage, in and out of the bedroom.

This weekend's readings speak of the origins of marriage. Both Genesis and Mark remind us that "a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh." To emphasize this, Mark adds, "So they are no longer two but one flesh."

God did not intend for humans to be alone. We are at our best when we are in community.

Pope John Paul II explained this idea in depth in his work "Theology of the Body" in which he speaks of a "communion of persons." He says we are created to be like the Trinity — persons in communion with each other. The most excellent expression of this is the sacrament of marriage, but extended family and friends fit into this communion as well.

In a society that has warped the gift of marital love, the church stands as a beacon of light calling us to a more perfect understanding of how we share ourselves whether we are single or married. We were never meant to be alone; we have been made to live like God does, in union with each other.

Questions:

How does our society make it difficult to be a communion of persons? What are ways we can be more united with the people in our lives?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3

Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48; Monday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions), Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; Tuesday (St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; Wednesday (St. Jerome), Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; Thursday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux), Nehemiah 8:1-12, Luke 10:1-12; Friday (The Guardian Angels), Baruch 1:15-22, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; Saturday, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; Monday, Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11, Jonah 2:3-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday, Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; Friday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi), Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28.

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Pope holds meteorite from Mars

New Vatican observatory headquarters inaugurated

ROME (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI officially inaugurated the Vatican Observatory's new headquarters in Castel Gandolfo, a Jesuit astronomer let the pope hold a meteorite from Mars.

"The pope very much wanted to be involved with our new headquarters," U.S. Jesuit Father George Coyne told Catholic News Service Sept. 17.

Pope Benedict spent the evening of Sept. 16 in the company of papal astronomers who conduct study and research in Castel Gandolfo, outside of Rome, and at another research center in Tucson, Ariz.

His hourlong visit began with "a very beautiful prayer and blessing" for the staff and official inauguration of their new headquarters, said Father Coyne, the former director of the Vatican Observatory.

The pope also blessed a dedication plaque in the main-floor entrance area and took a leisurely tour inside, visiting the new library, conference room, staff offices and laboratory. The new facility is located in a renovated monastery about

one-and-a-half miles from its previous location inside the papal palace.

Father Coyne said the pope "looked very carefully at the exhibits we have" and readily accepted the invitation of U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno to hold a meteorite.

In order to prevent contamination, the pope used a white handkerchief to hold the specimen, which, according to Father Coyne, was the Nakhla meteorite — a fragment of a larger meteorite from Mars that fell in the Nakhla region near Alexandria, Egypt, in 1911.

The small chunk of carbon-rich stone weighs just five-and-a-half ounces — just a bit heavier than a baseball.

The pope was led to the new headquarters' second floor to say a prayer in the chapel and pose for a group picture on the terrace.

Afterward, the astronomers treated the pope to a small reception of cookies and orange soda. The whole event was "very informal and cordial," said Father Coyne.

He said the visit "was magnificent because it shows the pope's personal interest in our work. After all, it's his observatory.

"He was curious about all we do in Arizona, so we had some very nice photographs of our mountain observatory in Arizona" to show the pope and explain the reason most of the research is done there, said the Jesuit priest.

The Vatican Observatory set up a second research center in Tucson in 1981 after the skies above its telescopes in Italy got too bright for



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI examines a meteorite from Mars while visiting the new headquarters of the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 16.

nighttime observation.

The Vatican Observatory's headquarters had been located inside the papal palace at Castel Gandolfo since 1935, when it was moved from Rome to escape the nighttime light pollution coming from city streets.

But the papal astronomers expanded their activities so much in recent years with their popular summer school for budding scientists and research-related events that "we were overusing our facilities in the papal palace," said Father Coyne.

The decision to move to separate

and larger facilities was made many years ago, he said. Astronomers started to move into their new, more modern headquarters this spring.

Father Coyne said the pope was scheduled to give an address to astronomers from all over the world, including members of the International Astronomical Union and the head of the American Astronomical Society.

The event, planned for Oct. 30 at the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences, is one of the Vatican's many initiatives to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy.

Late Nite Catechism

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Henry Gibson, 'Laugh-In' star and cardinal's friend, dies at 73

WASHINGTON (CNS) — John and James were pals in high school who kept up that friendship after they graduated from St. Joseph Prep School in Philadelphia more than 55 years ago.

John is U.S. Cardinal John P. Foley, pro-grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher and formerly the 23-year president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

James was James Bateman, who later changed his name to Henry Gibson, a fixture with his offbeat poems and deadpan delivery on the TV smash "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In," which aired from 1968 to 1973.

Gibson died Sept. 14 at his home in Malibu, Calif., seven days before his 74th birthday. His son Jon said the cause of death was cancer.

The cardinal remembers Gibson fondly, as have legions of baby boomers who grew up following Gibson on "Laugh-In" and in a subsequent film and television career.

"I just wrote to his widow yesterday. He was a good friend," Cardinal Foley told Catholic News Service Sept. 18.

"He had been here for the ceremonies when I was made a cardinal, and he was also attempting to interest people in the work of the church in the Holy Land, too, which was very nice of him," the cardinal added.

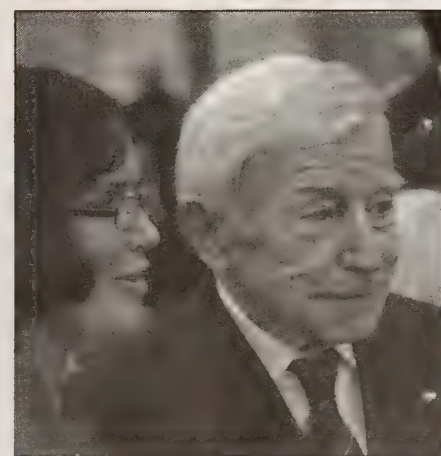
Gibson had done some fundraising for the church in the Holy Land after Cardinal Foley was appointed to his post with the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

Cardinal Foley and Gibson, while classmates at St. Joseph Prep, had acted in different plays together.

"He was a wonderful person, a delightful person," Cardinal Foley said. "He was always an excellent person, a very good actor and a good friend."

Gibson, after graduating from high school, graduated from the theater program at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

He got his stage name from his



CNS PHOTO BY THOMAS LORSUNG

Actor Henry Gibson, who is pictured during a 2007 Mass in Rome, died Sept. 14 at his home in Malibu, Calif. He was 73.

fellow Catholic University theater grad, Jon Voight, who outlined an act in which the two of them would play "brothers from the Ozarks who represented the United States on cultural tours and caused riots where they went," Voight told The New York Times Sept. 16. "I gave him the name Henry Gibson, which I got from (Norwegian playwright) Henrik Ibsen."

Seuss and tell



COURTESY PHOTO

After learning about Dr. Seuss and "The Cat in the Hat," the students in Mrs. Myers' first-grade class at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro created their own hats Sept. 18.

Learning the ropes



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro participate in a team-building activity at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center during the first week in September. The class visited the camp for an overnight community-building experience on the high ropes course and learned the importance of leadership skills.

More space for students



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from St. Mark School in Huntersville process out of the church following the first school-wide Mass in the new church building Aug. 26. For the past six years, school Masses have been held in the church's family center. This Mass marked the first time students worshiped as a school community in the new church, which is nearly double the size of the family center. "The new building is beautiful and we have waited so long to be able to worship as a school community in a space that is big enough for students and families to gather," said Janis Boone, public relations representative for the school. Construction on the new St. Mark Church began in April 2008 and the new church building was dedicated Aug. 23.

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Prayers for peace



COURTESY PHOTO

The International Day of Peace was celebrated by the St. Leo School community in Winston-Salem Sept. 21. The student body began the day with a prayer service that included a presentation of flags representing the cultural heritages of the school families. Prayers, led by the newly installed student council, asked for peace in every corner of the world. Students and teachers were encouraged to dress in attire representing their nationalities.

Pictured (from left) are fifth-grader Valerie Lopez, Spanish teacher Maria Iturralde, third-grader Sandra Lopez, science teacher Mythily Isaac, and eighth-grader Kimmie Ramos.

Art in the park



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Charlotte Catholic High School photography students Michael Kuhn (center), Corinne Harceg (left) and Danielle Holmes (right) hang photographs Sept. 22 for the Festival in the Park. Charlotte Catholic High School photography students will display both digital and traditional black and white darkroom work at the Charlotte outdoor festival Sept. 24-27.

Revering the rose



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, is pictured with members of the parish's Knights of Columbus following the Silver Rose prayer service in the chapel of the church Aug. 28.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the St. Matthew Respect Life committee, the prayer service was held to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of North America and of the unborn.

The prayer service included recitation of the rosary, an act of consecration, the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a solemn blessing.

The Silver Rose devotion was started in 1960 by a group of teenage boys known as Squires, an affiliated organization of the Knights of Columbus. The boys were looking for a means to give thanks to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Since a real rose has a short life span, a jeweler in Mexico City crafted a rose out of silver.

Today there are three Silver Roses making a pilgrimage across North America. All three left the city of London in Ontario, Canada in May and will arrive in Laredo, Texas, prior to Dec. 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Returning to paradise

Catechetical Sunday emphasizes proclamation of the Word

Catechists across the United States were blessed on Sept. 20, this year's Catechetical Sunday. The theme "Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word" is a reminder that our Lord has commissioned us to proclaim the Word.

The General Catechetical Directory states that "catechesis is that particular form of the ministry of the Word which matures initial conversion to make it into a living, explicit and fruitful confession of faith."

Pope John Paul II explained that the definitive aim of catechesis "is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

Regaining paradise

To be "in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ" is to be in the restored "Eden," the garden.

The early Church Fathers commented on the connection between the story of the Garden of Eden and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Centuries later, stained glass artists paired these two Biblical accounts in the same windows. This is seen in the great gothic cathedrals of Chartres, Bourges and Sens.

The "proto-gospel" of Genesis 3:15

Guest Column

FATHER ROGER ARNSPARGER
GUEST COLUMNIST



is the account of the creation of Adam and Eve, their subsequent original sin and expulsion from the garden. The Good Samaritan parable is from Chapter 10 of St. Luke's Gospel.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the man leaving Jerusalem is leaving "communion, intimacy" with God. He represents Adam and Eve and all of humanity leaving the garden of God's presence. Outside of the garden, man is beaten and bruised by his decision to sin.

The Samaritan is the Redeemer who has arrived to proclaim the Gospel and fulfill God's promise that the "woman and her offspring" would conquer evil.

The Samaritan-Redeemer, who is Christ, picks the man up and takes him to the inn, a representation of the Church. In the Church, the man is anointed and nourished until the

Samaritan-Redeemer returns.

The Samaritan-Redeemer entrusts care of the man to the keeper of the inn and says he will return to pay the full price. Of course, Christ paid that price on Calvary. Paradise lost in Eden is paradise regained in heaven. Everyone is invited to the restored paradise, the restored garden where man can "walk" with God in "intimacy."

Catechesis and intimacy with Christ

This movement from alienation to walking with God in intimacy is the goal of catechesis.

In the Church, we are fed and nourished by the proclamation of the Word, which invites us to the intimacy of a sacramental encounter with Christ Himself.

The work of catechists through the centuries has been to proclaim that Gospel which leads us to a personal faith, intimate communion with Christ and the Church.

Each Christian is a catechist in one way or another, using each providential moment and tool to do what our Lord commissioned the apostles:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt. 28: 18-20)

On Catechetical Sunday especially, we are most grateful to everyone in our lives who has been and is "catechist" to us, and who led us into the Garden of the Church where we can have intimate communion with the Lord. May God bless those who have proclaimed the Word to us.

Father Arnsperger is Vicar of Education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia.

GUIDELINES FOR PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Description of the work of the catechist in the National Directory for Catechesis, 2005:

"The apostolic work of the catechist springs from the Sacrament of Baptism. ... It is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. ... Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training. ... Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ energizes their service to the Church and provides the continuing motivation, vitality, and force of their catechetical activity ... to follow (Christ) as a teacher of the faith and a witness to the truth of the faith."

Nourished by the Church, catechists fulfill the six tasks of catechesis: 1) promote knowledge of the faith; 2) promote a knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments; 3) promote moral formation in Jesus Christ; 4) teach Christians how to pray with Christ; 5) prepare Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the church; 6) promote a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

Letters to the Editor

Welcoming everyone

I read with interest the letter from June Clancy "Welcoming the deaf" (Sept. 11).

I find it amazing that priests and parishioners find Ms. Clancy's interpreting as a distraction.

We have been blessed in our parish by Jenny Fox signing for the deaf. Although I am not hard of hearing, I find the interpretation beautiful and another form of praise to Our Lord.

I also witnessed signing when Mother Teresa came to the Charlotte Coliseum years ago.

Again, I was moved by being able to witness this form of prayer.

My husband lost his sight over seven

years ago due to complications from diabetes.

I am saddened at times by the people who will not shake his hand at the sign of peace as he holds his hand out to reach out to others.

I am so moved by the people who do come up to him and shake his hand or give him a hug to let him know he is loved.

I know there will be a warm welcome for these people at the gates of Heaven.

Rita Searce
Greensboro, NC

Powerful tool for the faith

In response to "Lessons in brevity" in the Sept. 18 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, I want to point out that Twitter is so much more than 140 character messages.

In fact, if you learn how to use it, it can be a great tool for helping to live a fuller Christian life.

In Twitterland, there are casual users and there are power users, and everyone in-between.

A casual or new user may see an individual 'tweet' as 140 characters, but the power user sees the initial tweet as a kind of advertisement, or way to redirect readers to a Web site, video, picture, or other content-rich link.

Here are some examples:

A Tweet from @usccbmedia: @CatholicNewsSvc Wow. And we thought we had church-state tensions in this country. <http://tinyurl.com/kujbpz>

Note: this Tweet redirects and gives another Catholic Twitterer's address.

A Tweet from @CenteringPrayer: News About Fr. Thomas Keating <http://>

post.ly/5Wuz

Note: in this Tweet, readers are redirected to a Web site with an update about Fr. Keating's surgery.

A Tweet from me @MarieGoocher: <http://twitpic.com/holy9> - The new altar at St. Francis Springs. Check out the 'candle' lights!

Note: I sent a picture taken on a Mother/Daughter retreat.

Connections can be made with friends, family, and strangers.

Recently, I sent a tweet including a picture of our new building at St. Mark to a dad who had just dropped off one of his eight children at Davidson College.

I also use Twitter to communicate with other Catholics about retreats and Centering Prayer.

So, you see, Twitter is a great tool, if a little time is spent to learn this great form of communication.

Marie Goocher
Davidson, NC

Christ the healer

The importance of absolution

Confession is good for the soul.

Forgiveness brings healing.

I think that, just as God has forgiven us in Christ, if someone sincerely asks for forgiveness, we should forgive that person, even though he or she might sin again.

The image Jesus wants us to have of God the Father is described in the story of the prodigal son. The father here forgives immediately. The sorrowing son does not even get a chance to finish his confession before the father orders a ring and a garment and a banquet to celebrate their reconciliation. The father is really the "prodigal" in the sense that he is extravagant with his forgiveness.

In hearing thousands of confessions, I have never heard a confession from someone who was not truly sorry. I have never refused absolution.

Confession is meant to be an encounter with God's mercy.

The people who come to confession are rare in today's world. They are people who actually take sin seriously. They are people who accept their guilt and feel the need for the forgiveness of the church.

We should encourage such people.

They are like King David, who expressed his guilt in Psalm 51, the "Miserere" or "mercy" psalm. David asks for mercy after his sin with Bathsheba. Actually, his most serious sin was not adultery with Bathsheba but the murder of her husband Uriah, which he arranged

to cover up their adultery.

Anyway, David was totally sorry.

He says: "Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always."

Now that's an act of contrition!

In my experience, the people who come to confession have carried around their guilt for a long time, sometimes for years. So, when people finally find the courage to come to confession, I don't think we priests should discourage them. We are meant to be a "balm in Gilead."

Now, there is a tension in the priest's role of confessor.

Canon law says priests are to be judge as well as healer (Canon 978).

This is hard to do.

When I was a young priest, I think I put more emphasis on being a judge. Today I think I represent Christ the healer. I certainly appreciate people's persistent striving more than I used to.

But, in all my years of hearing confessions, I've never questioned anyone's sorrow. Nor have I questioned the person's "firm purpose of amendment." I take it at face value.

Canon law says priests should not refuse or delay absolution if the penitent is sincere.

Some people will commit the

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



same sin again. After all, many sins are also addictions. I know that people will likely use pornography or alcohol again until they get help to overcome their addictions.

It is a harder case when people are living with someone who is not their spouse. I ask them to live as brother and sister, but I don't check on them.

Occasionally a person comes to confession and tells me that absolution was refused by another priest. I don't question that priest's judgment. I was not there.

But I do admire the persistence of the penitent. I'm not sure I would ever go back to confession if I was refused absolution.

In the tension between being judge and healer, I would rather err on the side of healing.

David also said it well in Psalm 51: "A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn."

One must first believe in order to understand God's truth, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Understanding the divine mystery will never come from study alone — one must first believe in the Christian faith in order to understand it, said Pope Benedict XVI.

Theologians and Christians who wish to deepen their faith "cannot count on just their intelligence, but must cultivate a profound experience of faith at the same time," he said at his weekly general audience Sept. 23.

The pope spoke in the Paul VI hall before about 9,000 pilgrims from around the world, which included a group of 25 Chinese priests.

The catechesis was dedicated to the life and teachings of St. Anselm of Canterbury, an 11th-century Benedictine and doctor of the church.

According to the saint, people who wish to better understand the Christian tradition can carry out "a healthy theological quest" by following three steps, the pope said.

First, one must have faith, he said, which is "a free gift from God to be welcomed with humility."

The second step is experience, which entails incorporating the word of God in one's everyday life. The final step is "true understanding, which is never a result of ascetic reasoning, but of contemplative intuition," he said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Our catechesis today turns to an outstanding churchman of the eleventh century, Saint Anselm of Canterbury. Anselm received a monastic education in his native town of Aosta, in the north of Italy, and entered the Benedictine monastery of Bec in Normandy. Under the guidance of his prior, Lanfranc of Pavia, he devoted himself to study and prayer, and eventually was elected abbot of Bec. Some time later he succeeded Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Anselm's years in England were marked by the reorganization of ecclesial life in the wake of the Norman invasion and the struggle for the Church's legitimate freedom from political inroads, which resulted in his being exiled for three years. This great spiritual leader was also a brilliant teacher, writer and speculative theologian. In the prayer which opens his most celebrated work, the *Proslogion*, he expresses his desire to understand the faith, the divine truth which his heart already believes and loves. May Saint Anselm's life and teaching inspire us to a more fruitful contemplation of the mysteries of the Christian faith, and a deeper love of the Lord and his Church.

Keeping up with life's changes

Estate planning foundations

As the seasons change from summer into fall and we approach the end of the year, it can be a good time to reflect on estate plans and other arrangements that provide for family members and loved ones. The foundation of most estate plans is a will, used either alone or in conjunction with a living trust, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, joint ownership arrangements, or other financial management plans.

When planning a will, it is best to work with professional advisors who are experienced in estate planning so that your goals and objectives will be met with a minimum of fees, concerns and delays.

Once your plans are in place, it is also important to review them every few years. Minor changes can usually be accomplished through simple adjustments to existing plans. Major changes, on the other hand, sometimes require a fresh look at your overall arrangements. A variety of factors — some obvious, some not — can affect

your estate plan including:

- Births, marriages, or deaths within your family.
- A difference in your marital status.
- Significant increases or decreases in your financial status.
- The inability or unavailability of the named executor, personal representative, or trustee to settle your estate.
- Moving to another state or acquiring property in a different state.
- Selling or giving away property.
- Changes in federal and/or state tax laws.
- A desire to include charitable gifts as part of your estate plan.

You may also wish to include your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte as a beneficiary to receive a portion of the assets remaining in your estate. You simply stipulate whether you wish for the entire balance, a specific amount, or a percentage of your estate as your

Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST



gift. Keep in mind that you can provide that a gift be made only if your other beneficiaries are unable to receive the funds. This way you can assure that your heirs' future security is not jeopardized in any way.

Up-to-date plans ensure that your wishes will be followed and will bring you and those who rely on you added peace of mind.

Judy Smith is planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704)370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Worshippers pray during Mass at St. Justin Church in the West Bank town of Nablus in January. Pope Benedict XVI has announced a synod on the Middle East to take place in 2010. The pope said the synod would look at various problems faced by minority Christian communities, from migration to interreligious dialogue.

A community of believers

Pope announces synod on Middle East for 2010

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI announced that he will convene a Synod of Bishops for the Middle East to be held in October of 2010. They will address the problems of the Christian population in the region.

The pope said the synod would look at the various problems faced by the minority Christian communities in Middle Eastern countries, from migration to interreligious dialogue.

He announced the initiative at a meeting Sept. 19 with patriarchs and other church leaders from the region. After the encounter at the papal residence outside Rome, the pope hosted the prelates at a working lunch.

The synod will be held Oct. 10-24, 2010, on the theme "The Catholic Church in the Middle East: Communion and Witness: 'The community of believers was of one heart and mind.'" The quotation is a description of the unity of the early church from the Acts of the Apostles.

"During this brotherly meeting, from your speeches will surely emerge the issues that beset you and the orientations toward their proper resolution," the pope said. He told the church leaders that he was praying for them and their communities daily.

A Vatican statement said the informal discussion between the pontiff and the Eastern church representatives focused in particular on problems related to migration, ecumenical relations and interreligious dialogue, and highlighted the church's efforts to promote peace in the region. As he often does during synods, the pope gave an impromptu talk at the end of the encounter to summarize the various points that were made.

Pope Benedict has spoken frequently about the pressures faced by Christian and Catholic minorities in the Middle East, particularly in the Holy Land and in Iraq. The synod was designed to provide an opportunity for a much-needed strategizing session at the level of the universal church.

Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, said the idea for such a synodal assembly on the Middle East has been around for a while. He said that last spring, during the pope's visit to the Holy Land, he decided to go ahead with the idea.

Archbishop Eterovic said the synod would include representatives from other Christian churches, and perhaps those of the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

"We don't know the format yet, but it is clear that one must take into account the entire complex reality of the Middle East," Archbishop Eterovic told the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

"The synod is not 'against' anyone,

but is an open space of dialogue that aims at communion and peace in justice and truth. Certainly we will find the way to hear the voices of the Jewish world and the Muslim world," he said.

Archbishop Eterovic said it would be the first regional synod held in modern times. It will last two weeks, one week less than usual, and preparatory work was already beginning with a two-day meeting Sept. 21-22 among Vatican and Middle East church officials. Present at this planning session were many of the Eastern church representatives who met with the pope Sept. 19, as well as the president of the Iranian bishops' conference, Chaldean Archbishop Ramzi Garmou of Tehran, and the president of the Turkish bishops' conference, Bishop Luigi Padovese.

The "lineamenta" or outline for the Middle East synod was expected by the end of the year, and the "instrumentum laboris" or working document for the synod should be ready by Easter. Archbishop Eterovic said both documents would be briefer than usual.

Those participating in the talks with the pope included the Chaldean patriarch, Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad, Iraq; Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem; the Lebanon-based Maronite patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir; and representatives of the Ukrainian, Syro-Malabar, Coptic, Melkite, Syrian, Armenian, Romanian and Syro-Malankar rites.

Last January, Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk, Iraq, and other Iraqi bishops in Rome for their "ad limina" visits asked the pope to convene a special synod for the churches of the Middle East.

Archbishop Sako said the priority topics for such a synod would include the problem of Christians fleeing the Middle East, paying Christian witness in a predominantly Muslim world, relations with Muslims, the role of Christians in civil and political life, lack of full religious freedom and Christians' prospects for the future.

Bishop Maroun Lahham of Tunis, Tunisia, a Jordanian native of Palestinian parentage, told Catholic News Service earlier this year that when the church discusses Asia — as it did in a 1998 synod for that region — "it's the Philippines, India, Japan, not the Middle East."

Bishop Lahham, who worked as a priest in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem as well as in the United Arab Emirates, said while the Middle East is technically part of the Asian land mass, "the issues ... were very unlike those" in typically Asian countries.

"We didn't feel (the Asian synod) was meant for us," said the bishop, who was head of the seminary in Beit Jalla, West Bank, at the time.

Contributing to this story was Pat Morrison in Tunisia.

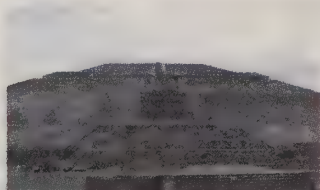
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Foreign language, common faith

*Hispanic track tunes
into Eucharistic
Congress theme*

BY KATIE MOORE

STAFF WRITER

AND

HEATHER BELLEMORE

INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with this year's theme of the Eucharistic Congress, "The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us," the speakers for the Hispanic track focused on the topic of the Incarnation and the importance of spreading Christ's Word.

Claretian Father Walter Lawson, who serves as programming director for Radio Maria in New York City, said his ministry is about taking the Gospel out of the church and into the neighborhoods.

"A lot of people don't

See HISPANIC, page 9

The Word on the streets of Charlotte



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance under a canopy carried by Knights of Columbus during the eucharistic procession in uptown Charlotte Sept. 26.

*Thousands share
in grace of fifth
Eucharistic Congress*

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Serenity and reverence greeted the bearers of the Blessed Sacrament, carried in a monstrance held high in the streets of uptown Charlotte Sept. 26.

In the middle of a business district buffeted by recession and banking industry upheaval, the Word made Flesh traversed the short route from St. Peter Church to the Charlotte Convention Center in a public invitation to the redeeming love of Christ for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

An estimated 10,000 people from across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis

See CONGRESS, page 7



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Rick Vande Kaay, of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, waits while Immaculée Ilibagiza signs her book after speaking at the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 26.

Proclaiming Christ's word *Congress speakers inform and inspire*

BY KATIE MOORE

STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE—Covering everything from stem cells to cooking, the speakers at the Diocese of Charlotte's fifth annual Eucharistic Congress educated and inspired with presentations on their areas of expertise.

A diverse group of speakers presented, challenged and

enlightened their audiences with a variety of topics at this year's congress in Charlotte Sept. 25-26.

The congress' keynote speaker was Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan genocide.

In her talk Friday evening, Ilibagiza spoke about forgiveness and the power of the rosary.

See SPEAKERS, page 6

Catholic leaders at UN summit urge immediate action on climate change

BY BETH GRIFFIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS — Climate change is more than an environmental concern; it is an issue of justice that merits immediate attention by world leaders.

This was the message delivered repeatedly by Catholic participants in the

See SUMMIT, page 4

Culture Watch

Woman runs to become nun;
House resolution honors
women religious

| PAGES 10-11

Around the diocese

New board for ancient order;
Honoring catechists; Catholic
sports engender excellence

| PAGES 12-13

Pope Visits Czech Republic

Message of hope urges
Czechs to resist relativism,
consumerism; Pope Speaks

| PAGES 5, 15

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

KNIGHTS ON SHINY WHEELS



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS DONAHUE, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Members of the Knights of Columbus Motorcycle Ministry arrive for the organization's monthly meeting at St. Ann Parish in Raritan Borough, N.J., in late July.

Motorcycle ministry

Knights' unique ministry combines spirituality, fundraising

RARITAN BOROUGH, N.J. (CNS) — When about 15 men on motorcycles wearing "colors" or leather vests arrived at St. Ann Church, they weren't looking for trouble.

Rather, as members of the Knights of Columbus Motorcycle Ministry, they came to their monthly meeting to help spread the Gospel through the order's principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

George Muniz, a member of Council 9199, Our Lady of Peace Parish in Fords, said the motorcycle ministry gives him an opportunity to help others and enjoy the outdoors at the same time.

Riding can also be a "spiritual" experience because it provides time to pray, he said.

"I wanted to join because I have been riding a motorcycle most of my life," said Muniz, a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Piscataway, who serves as a maintenance employee at three parishes in Perth Amboy.

"I am one of those guys who make the sign of the cross whenever I ride by a church," Muniz said.

With Father Edmund A. Luciano III, parochial vicar at St. Ann Parish, serving as chaplain, the ministry's meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Brandon, founder and president, then led the 90-minute session in businesslike fashion interspersed with humorous anecdotes and some mild ribbing from members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, old and new business was taken care of, finances were disclosed and plans were made for future charity events.

The organization's first fundraiser,

the Alzheimer's Disease Respite Care Motorcycle Run in late spring, raised more than \$400, Brandon said. Another fundraiser in September benefited Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Middlesex.

After ending the meeting with a prayer, Father Luciano said he is happy to see anyone trying to follow in Jesus' footsteps, even a group as unique as the motorcycle ministry.

"The Gospel comes to us in our everyday lives and riding is part of their everyday lives," he said. "Pope John Paul II encouraged us to go for the new evangelization. I don't know if this is what he had in mind but it is certainly the spirit of it."

For Brandon, the organization also offers an opportunity to change the negative image some people have of motorcyclists.

"It is not 800 guys living in a house all carrying guns," Brandon said. "Nobody is here to knock over a grocery store or sell drugs."

The motorcycle ministry's roots go back about three years when Brandon, a member of St. Mary Parish in Middletown, started it with members from local councils.

With the approval of Thomas Ciborski, immediate past state deputy, the ministry was given the green light to go statewide, Brandon said.

"I told him there are a lot of guys that would join the Knights if they knew there was a motorcycle ministry," Brandon said.

Since registration began at the Knights' annual state convention in Wildwood in May, more than 100 members have joined, including 30 from the Diocese of Metuchen, Brandon said.

Vatican asks US bishops to help pay for apostolic visitation

Study of women religious to cost \$1.1 million

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the Vatican congregation that ordered a comprehensive study of U.S. institutes of women religious has asked the U.S. bishops to contribute funds to offset the projected \$1.1 million cost of the study.

The request came in a letter from Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Dated July 14, the letter was made public Sept. 28 by the National Catholic Reporter, an independent Catholic newspaper based in Kansas City, Mo.

The study, known as an apostolic visitation, was authorized by Pope Benedict XVI in November 2008 and was expected to last three years.

"Because this apostolic visitation is so very important for safeguarding

and promoting consecrated life in the United States, it is also imperative that it be methodically and efficiently conducted," Cardinal Rode wrote. "I am asking you, my brother bishops, for your help in offsetting the expenses which will be incurred by this work for the future of apostolic religious life in the United States."

The cardinal said the \$1.1 million budget would cover "the three years which the total work of the apostolic visitation will require."

Part of the study of U.S. women religious involves a questionnaire distributed to 341 congregations Sept. 18. Included were questions about membership, living arrangements, the ministries in which members participate, and spiritual life, including the practice of prayer and the frequency of Mass.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A public rosary will be held in honor of Our Lady of Fatima and the miracle of the sun Oct. 10 at 12 p.m. The rosary will be prayed in the parking lot directly across the street from the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. This event is sponsored by America Needs Fatima with the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property. For more information, contact Lisena Maria Moss at jemoss@charter.net or call (828) 254-4526.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic Women's Group (CCWG) will host a reflection featuring guest speaker Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte, at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 5. The CCWG is an inter-parish organization of lay Christian faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte. Its mission is to foster in women a greater desire to know, love and serve Jesus Christ and his church. Daily Mass begins at 9 a.m. with the bishop's talk following at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Molly Beckert at (704) 243-3252 or mbeckert@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — A presentation on Our Lady of Fatima and Holy Mary and Islam will take

place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will be Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and Mike Sullivan, president of Catholics United for the Faith in Steubenville, Ohio. Light refreshments will be served after the talks. Come for fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ while we learn some fascinating facts about our Blessed Mother. For more information, contact Elizabeth Keating at ewkeating4@aol.com or Mary Sample at marysample5@aol.com or call (704) 341-9292.

CHARLOTTE — Presentations on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. and St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the office at St. Matthew Church at (704) 543-7677 or the office at St. John Neumann Church at (704) 536-6520.

CHARLOTTE — Anyone interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order and how to become a part of this group is invited to attend an informational meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. There will be concurrent sessions in English and Spanish on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact David Romero at (704) 877-5505.

CHARLOTTE — The 67th semi-annual rosary rally will be held Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The rally will include the holy rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. The homilist will be Father Rick DeClue. Join us as we honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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OCTOBER 2, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 41

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope's wrist still healing, but he can write

Second volume, following 'Jesus of Nazareth' bestseller, is in progress

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said his right wrist has still not fully recovered from being broken after he fell July 17, but that it has healed enough so that he can write again.

During a two-hour flight Sept. 26 from Rome's Ciampino airport to the Czech Republic, the pope answered questions submitted to the Vatican press office.

One of the questions, read by the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, was how the pope's wrist injury was healing and whether he was able to get much work done on his second volume of a book

on Jesus of Nazareth.

The pope told reporters that the five weeks his hand was in a cast and the subsequent days of recovery were very difficult for him. "My thoughts mostly develop through writing, so for me it was truly a test of patience to not be able to write for six weeks," he said.

"I did make a little progress on the book, but there is still a lot to do," including the bibliography, he said.

He said the book "could be finished by the spring. But this is a hope."

The book is expected to cover Christ's childhood, passion, death and resurrection. The first volume, the best-selling "Jesus of Nazareth," was published in 2007.

CHARLOTTE — "Grace in a Competitive World," a lecture by Carolyn Woo, the Martin J. Gillen Dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, will take place in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The presentation will explore the role of grace in our work and behavior given the highly competitive practices common in our culture. Admission is free and the lecture is open to the general public with a reception to follow. For more information, contact Greg Crawford at (630) 730-2787.

CHARLOTTE — The Young Adult Ministry of St. Peter Church will sponsor a *Theology on Tap* series Mondays during October from 6:30-8 p.m. at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E Morehead St. *Theology on Tap* is a dynamic speaker series aimed at providing young adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed and open environment. The series will explore important modern issues in today's society. The first session will take place Oct. 12 on the topic "Everything that I needed to know I learned in...Genesis" presented by Rich Yonakor. For more information, contact rebhay@gmail.com.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The departments of Biology and Theology of Belmont Abbey College are hosting a presentation, *Catholicism and Evolution*, by Abbey graduate, Father Michael J. Kavanaugh, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Father Kavanaugh's presentation will focus on how the Catholic Church understands the creation accounts of Genesis and on the current debate regarding evolution. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. David Williams at dr.fuellen@gmail.com or (704) 461-7373.

GASTONIA — A presentation on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several

books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 867-6212.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — To mark the 92nd Anniversary of Our Lady's Apparitions at Fatima, Portugal a *rosary* will be prayed on the front lawn of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. The gathering will begin with an outside procession, rain or shine. For more information, contact the parish office at (336) 274-7326.

GREENSBORO — A *charismatic healing Mass* at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., will be held Oct. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Fidel Melo with guest speaker Richard Collins, OLG parishioner, and music provided by Freeway. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. This Mass is sponsored by the parish health ministry and the Flames of Fire prayer group. For more information, contact Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — A presentation on the Shroud of Turin will be held at St. James the Greater Church, 139 Manor Ave. SW, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. John Iannone, a Catholic writer, lecturer, and filmmaker who has studied the Holy Shroud for 30 years, will present the topic "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: The Case for Authenticity." Iannone has published several books on the Shroud of Turin and has done work for PBS and EWTN. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 720-0600.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Knights of Columbus leader named to Vatican bank council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the Knights of Columbus has been named by Pope Benedict XVI to a five-member council that supervises the activities of the Vatican bank.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who heads the 1.7 million-member fraternal organization, was among three new council members announced by the Vatican Sept. 23.

"I hope that my experience in working with the Vatican on a variety of issues over the past decade, and my work in the business and financial sector — as Supreme Knight and Chief Executive Officer of the Knights of Columbus — will enable me to contribute to the success of the IOR's (Vatican's Institute for Works of Religion) many important initiatives," said Anderson.

Leaving his post on the council was Virgil Dechant, who stepped down as head of the Knights of Columbus in 2000.

The pope also named a new

president of the council, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian banker and a professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, and a new vice president, Renaldo Hermann Schmitz, a retired German business manager.

The Vatican bank, known formally as the Institute for the Works of Religion, was established in 1942 and is used by Vatican agencies, church organizations, bishops and religious orders around the world. It offers currency exchange services and interest-bearing accounts and, like all banks, has an investment portfolio.

Anderson, 58, also runs the Knights of Columbus insurance program, which has more than \$14 billion in assets and \$71 billion worth of insurance in force. For the 34th year in a row, Anderson said recently, the program has earned the highest rating given by A.M. Best and for the 17th year in a row it earned Standard & Poor's top rating.

Katrina of the Philippines



CNS PHOTO BY CHERYL RAVELO, REUTERS

People stranded by floodwaters take refuge inside a church in Cainta Rizal, outside Manila, Philippines, Sept. 28. The Philippines appealed for international aid to help tens of thousands marooned by flash floods related to typhoon Ketsana.

Catholic organizations aid Philippine victims of flooding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic charitable organizations are stepping up to help victims in the Philippines after the worst flood in decades hit in late September.

"They're calling this the Katrina of the Philippines," said Luc Picard, Catholic Relief Services' country representative in Manila. The equivalent of a month's worth of rain fell in six hours and, at one point, more than 80 percent of

Manila was under water.

"With CRS' initial funding, we're helping 5,000 families through Caritas," Laura Sheahan, CRS regional information officer based in Cambodia, told CNS by e-mail.

Caritas is the umbrella organization of Catholic aid agencies. In a statement, the Caritas office in the Philippines said it was providing aid to a total of 10,000 families, or 50,000 people.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 2 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church,
North Wilkesboro

Oct. 4-9
Annual priest retreat
Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley

Oct. 13 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

Oct. 15 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte



CNS PHOTO BY KHAM, REUTERS

A farmer pulls a cart transporting grains in a rice paddy near a cement factory just outside Hanoi, Vietnam. During the recent U.N. Summit on Climate Change in New York, Catholic leaders urged immediate action on climate change.

Catholic leaders urge change at UN summit

Pope sends message that 'creation is under threat'

SUMMIT, from page 1

Sept. 22 U.N. Summit on Climate Change in New York.

"It is unfair that people in developing countries pay the consequences for problems that rich countries have created," said Elyzabeth Peredo, director of the Solon Foundation in Bolivia, at a Sept. 22 press conference.

As an example, she said Bolivia generates only 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but melting glaciers caused by the warming effect of emissions worldwide endanger crops for small-scale farmers in communities throughout the country's Andes mountains.

The proposals now under discussion at the United Nations set goals and targets for international investment in adaptation technologies to help countries withstand climate change.

"We have 2020 targets and even 2050 targets, but it's necessary to act now to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest," said Rene Grotenhuis, president of CIDSE, a Belgium-based international alliance of Catholic development agencies.

"We're trying to put a human face on climate change," he added. "Beyond the statistics, there are people living with the effects of climate change already. It's necessary and urgent to get a bold and ambitious treaty in Copenhagen."

Pope shares concern

Pope Benedict XVI urged world leaders to address global environmental issues "with generous courage" and reminded them that the world's

resources are to be shared by all, including poorer countries.

He said "creation is under threat" and that it was everyone's responsibility to protect the environment because "the earth is indeed a precious gift of the Creator."

The pope's message was sent by the Vatican to the climate change summit and appeared on the U.N. summit's Web site. The papal message had been recorded during an Aug. 26 general audience in Castel Gandolfo, Italy.

Government leaders have an obligation to work together for the "protection of the environment, and the safeguarding of resources and of the climate," in respect of the law and in solidarity with weaker nations, he said.

Natural resources must be shared, he said, and the social and economic costs of consuming them "must be recognized with transparency and borne by those who incur them, and not by other peoples or future generations."

Summit details

The Sept. 22 summit, called by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is a prelude to a comprehensive international climate change deal that will be finalized at the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Dec. 7-18 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The nonbinding convention, or treaty, was adopted in 1992 and aims to prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system.

Representatives of the 192 countries that are parties to the climate change convention meet annually to review progress on implementing it.

This year's meeting in Denmark is viewed as a pivotal opportunity to reverse the causes of climate change by implementing a new treaty

that will expand the reach of the convention's 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

That agreement set binding targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Catholic contingency

The 15-member Catholic delegation of laity and religious was organized by CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis, a network of 164 Catholic charities. It is led by Cardinal Keith O'Brien of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland. The group met with heads of state, government and religious leaders and delegates in multiple venues Sept. 20-23.

Cardinal O'Brien called on heads of state to give the issue the highest political priority and to attend the meeting in Copenhagen to make sure a strong and equitable agreement is reached.

"Leaders should be getting down to serious negotiations for the sake of all humanity," he said. "Instead, we are seeing political disagreements and a lack of commitment. The lives of millions of people in the developing world, who have done least to cause the problem, are at stake."

Grotenhuis said a fair, just climate treaty is endangered by "too many countries holding their cards close to the vest, waiting to see what the main actors will do. There is not yet a broad commitment from players other than" the European Union.

He said climate change relates to a basic principle of Catholic social teaching, the common good. "It's a fundamental issue at the heart of Catholic social thinking to care about climate change and make it an important issue," he added.

Catholic delegates also participated in a Sept. 21 panel that addressed

practical steps being taken to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience of affected populations. The speakers also gave examples from their regions to illustrate the scope of the situation.

Janet Mangera, executive secretary of Caritas Kenya, said changing climate patterns made rainfall unreliable in Kenya, where only 17 percent of the land is moderately productive. "Of 38 million people, 10 million are in need of food," she said. "In the past, we have had drought and famine, but it has not affected this high a percentage of the people."

She said Caritas Kenya is helping communities adapt to the water shortage by promoting traditional and drought-resistant crops, such as sorghum, millet and cassava, and demonstrating bio-farming in the dioceses.

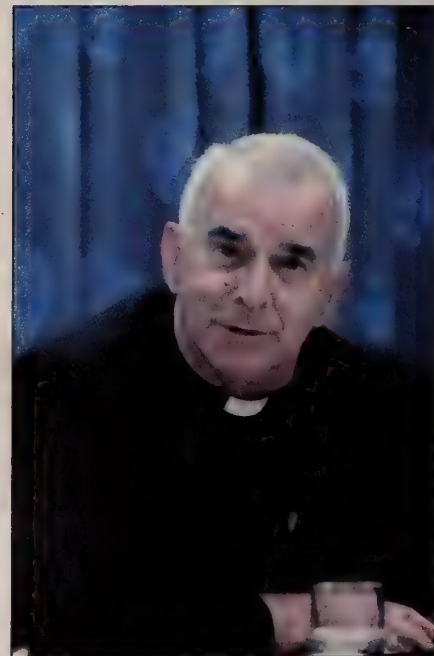
Mangera said Caritas is also "capacity-building in climate change," by training development coordinators to enable communities to advocate for policy changes.

Nafisa D'Souza, executive director of Laya Resource Centre in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, said, "Local communities are very much affected by the climate crisis, but they are also very resilient." But resilience erodes, she said, when scarce energy resources "go to meet the demands that come from the elites, either in or out of the country."

Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos, Guatemala, said the Catholic delegation was committed to encouraging fundamental policy changes by its presence at the meeting and by promoting the relationships among development, climate change, social justice and the suffering of poor people.

He urged people to adopt an austerity toward natural resources. He said his morning shower at a New York hotel dumped a surprising amount of water on him. "It was not only incredible, but unfair," he said, reflecting on the irregular availability of potable water in his country.

"We need to encourage a social system where to be is more important than to have," Bishop Ramazzini added.



CNS PHOTO BY DEVRA BERKOWITZ, COURTESY UN

Cardinal Keith O'Brien of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland, speaks to the press about climate change during a summit at the United Nations in New York Sept. 22.

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Message of hope

*Pope urges Czechs to regain values that
inspired fight for freedom*

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the peaceful revolt that brought down the country's communist regime, Pope Benedict XVI urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover the spiritual and moral values that sustained their struggle for freedom.

In gatherings Sept. 26-28 with political, social, cultural and religious leaders as well as the Catholic faithful, the pope delivered a message of hope meant to inspire both the country's majority of nonbelievers and the minority Catholic community.

Central to his message was that no society, no matter how democratic, could ever maintain a healthy and ethical sense of freedom without guidance from the truth found in God and the wisdom of faith.

The pope's trip to Prague, Brno, and Stara Boleslav was his 13th trip abroad and his seventh to Europe. The fact that more than half of his apostolic journeys so far have been to Europe reflects his deep concern for revitalizing the continent's Christian heritage.

"True freedom presupposes the search for truth — for the true good — and hence finds its fulfillment precisely in knowing and doing what is right and just," the pope said during a meeting Sept. 26 with diplomats and political, civil, religious and cultural leaders in Prague's presidential palace.

Under the soaring gilded stucco ceilings of the palace, the pope reminded his audience that the country's hard-fought freedom must be properly used. Leaders in society have the duty to encourage citizens to seek the truth and goodness, he said.

"Jointly we must engage in the struggle for freedom and the search for

truth, which either go together, hand in hand, or together they perish in misery," the pope said.

He urged people "to apply their faith respectfully yet decisively in the public arena" so that the truth and wisdom of faith could light the path of human progress.

"Far from threatening the tolerance of differences or cultural plurality, the pursuit of truth makes consensus possible, keeps public debate logical, honest and accountable" and ensures a society that is united and dedicated to the common good, he said.

The Czech Republic represents a unique challenge for the church. Some 60 percent of the population claims to profess no religious belief — making it the most secular country in Europe.

The largest faith community on the landscape is the Catholic Church, but Catholics are still only 30 percent of all inhabitants, and only a small percent say they are active members of the church.

At a welcoming ceremony at Prague's airport, the pope said the impact of 40 years of an atheist totalitarian regime could not be underestimated. The flame of faith has been kept alive thanks to the many "courageous martyrs whose fidelity to Christ spoke far louder and more eloquently than the voice of their executioners," he said.

The papal visit drew Catholics from all over the Czech nation and from neighboring Austria, Slovakia, Germany and Poland, specifically for the outdoor Mass Sept. 27 in the Moravian diocese of Brno, some 140 miles southeast of Prague. Local organizers said 120,000 people attended the event, making it the largest Mass ever celebrated in the Czech Republic.

The pope's homily focused on hope and how "the only certain and reliable hope is founded on God."



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI shakes hands with Czech President Vaclav Klaus after the pope celebrated an outdoor Mass in Stara Boleslav, Czech Republic, Sept. 28. During his three-day visit, Pope Benedict urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover spiritual and moral values.

Eucharistic Congress speakers inform, inspire

Talks illuminate faith centered around sacrament of Eucharist

SPEAKERS, from page 1

Ilibagiza spent 91 days hiding in a bathroom with seven other women during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. During that time, anger was her obstacle and the rosary became her refuge.

"Prayer has the power to change us," said Ilibagiza, who was able to forgive the men who killed her family.

"There is so much peace in forgiveness, so much freedom," she said.

Ilibagiza prayed approximately 27 rosaries a day during the time she was in hiding.

"Our Lady said that if we say the rosary, anything is possible," Ilibagiza said.

"We can do so much if we just trust in God."

Holy Hour and Benediction

The homilist during the eucharistic holy hour and Benediction on Saturday morning, Sept. 26, was Bishop Felipe Estévez, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami.

Bishop Estévez talked about the powerful witness of having the eucharistic procession through the streets of uptown Charlotte.

"The civil society notices that we hold this treasure not as a private secret, but that we are bold to hold it publicly as a public gift to all," he said.

"We do it because in exercising our religious freedom we are sharing our faith with others," said Bishop Estévez.

He went on to talk about the importance of eucharistic adoration and

how the practice of adoration goes hand-in-hand with receiving the sacrament of holy communion.

Bishop Estévez quoted St. Augustine when he said, "No one eats the flesh without first adoring it."

"Only in this way do we become one with him (Christ)," he said, referring to a quote from Pope Benedict XVI.

General track

To kick off the general session, Ilibagiza spoke about the apparitions of Our Lady of Kibeho.

The apparitions, which took place during the 1980s at an all-girls' Catholic high school in the remote Rwandan village of Kibeho, are the only Vatican-recognized Marian apparitions on the continent of Africa.

In keeping with the theme of this year's Eucharistic Congress, "The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us," Ilibagiza said that the messages of Our Lady of Kibeho were not just for Africa, but for the whole world.

Making his fourth appearance at the Eucharistic Congress was Father Leo Patalinghug, a member of the faculty of Mount St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore and host of the Internet cooking show "Grace Before Meals."

Father Patalinghug is a multi-talented priest — a former national full-contact stick fighting champion, a black belt in tae kwon do and an '80s break dancer.

His talk was centered on a cooking presentation in which he showed the audience how to make an Italian dish called "Penne a la Vodka."

"As a priest I gave God everything, including my hobbies, and he turned it into a ministry," said Father Patalinghug referring to how he has been able to incorporate his unique skill-set in his vocation as a priest.

"As a priest I feed people — body, mind and soul," said Father Patalinghug.

With "Grace Before Meals" he follows a similar philosophy.

"I touch their hearts through their stomachs," he said.

Next on the general speaker track was Father Tad Pacholczyk, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, Penn.

In his talk, "The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning," Father Pacholczyk took a daunting topic and broke it down into understandable terms.

"We've got to help people understand why they should never lay their hands on a human embryo," said Father Pacholczyk.

He touched on the moral and ethical dilemmas of scientific research using embryonic stem cells.

"I am convinced that the true measure of the greatness of a society will always be in terms of how it treats its lowest members," he said. "When you choose to go after good ends by using evil means, you always end up in a pickle."



PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Father Leo Patalinghug, general track speaker during the fifth annual Eucharistic Congress, illustrates his cooking metaphors for adding spice to a life of faith.

Closing Mass

"The Eucharistic Congress is an opportunity for us to gather to thank our Lord for his great gift to us," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis in his homily during the closing Mass.

Bishop Jugis mentioned the many ways in which Jesus is present to us, specifically the ministry of the priest, the liturgy of the Word, and worship through prayer and song.

However, he said the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is different from the other ways in that it is real and substantial.

"We are a eucharistic people," said the bishop.

"It is the real presence of Christ that moves us to say, 'We cannot live without the Eucharist, because we cannot live without Christ,'" he said.

The bishop closed his homily with a reminder of the theme of the congress.

"The very reason 'The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us,' was to offer himself as a sacrifice for our salvation," Bishop Jugis said. "Jesus instituted the Eucharist so he could continue to offer himself for us and we could have new life in him."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, (left) chats with Bishop Felipe Estévez, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, in the Charlotte Convention Center during the Eucharistic Congress. Bishop Estévez delivered the Holy Hour homily at the congress.

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Thousands share in grace of fifth Eucharistic Congress

CONGRESS, from page 1

as he led the eucharistic procession, part of the fifth annual diocesan Eucharistic Congress held Sept. 25-26. The two-day event was themed "The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us," taken from John 1:14.

"We pray that the congress will produce the fruits of spiritual renewal in all of us, a greater appreciation for the central place of the Eucharist in our lives as Catholics, and an increased zeal to do our part in the great mission of the new evangelization," said Bishop Jugis in a Sept. 4 letter to parishioners about the congress.

"It is through our participation in the eucharistic sacrifice that the Lord constantly enlivens us so that we can faithfully do his work in the midst of our secular society," he said.

Seminarians of the diocese with bearers of the crucifix and torches led the procession, followed by a Knights of Columbus color guard, sodalities, first communicants, members of religious communities, deacons, and priests from around the diocese.

Gentle, rhythmic bells and curling incense signaled the approach of the Blessed Sacrament, held in a monstrance by Bishop Jugis under a canopy carried by the Knights of Columbus.

Bishop Jugis was followed by Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte, and guest Bishop Felipe Estévez, auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese of Miami. The rest of the procession included representatives of many of the 93 parishes and missions, religious ministries, lay ministries and cultural groups in the diocese. Hundreds of people watching the procession along the city streets knelt reverently as the Eucharist passed by, then joined the procession behind parish banners.

"It's emotional, beautiful," said an onlooker from Raleigh, in town for business. "It's impressive, even for this Baptist who is not high into ceremony."

"The first year was also very impressive," said Kevin Routen,

parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

"All the construction workers along the route either knelt or took off their hard hats and stopped work. All the noise stopped," he said.

"It may sound corny, but I think of myself as a rechargeable battery and this (Eucharistic Congress) as my charging station," said Kevin Dieter, parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, who has attended all five congresses.

"As Catholics, we all know what the Eucharist is about, but we come here to be re-energized," he said.

Call to evangelization

After participants entered the convention center, Bishop Estévez emphasized the evangelistic nature of the Eucharistic Congress in a Holy Hour homily.

"The Lord does great things in your midst," said Bishop Estévez, "through his real, divine, loving and sacramental presence."

Citing only 30 percent regular Sunday Mass attendance by Catholics, the bishop said there exists an "urgency for Catholic evangelization."

The Eucharist is our "source of strength to reach out and share Christ with others in an ongoing history of salvation," he stated.

Bishop Estévez added that the Last Supper is the "most tangible expression of love passed from Jesus to the apostles, and from the apostles to every succeeding generation."

"The church does not own the Eucharist, but is the faithful custodian," he said.

He added that through a public event like the annual Eucharistic Congress, we are "passing on the most precious gift received from the apostles and Mary."

Bishop Estévez also said that studies have shown the practice of eucharistic adoration results in increased participation in Sunday Mass.

Bishop Jugis then concluded the Holy Hour with an invitation to deepen appreciation and devotion to the eucharistic presence in adoration during the congress.

Faith intensified

Eucharistic adoration during the congress began Friday evening, Sept. 25, when a number of groups — including clergy, religious, young adults and families — each spent an hour before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Peter Church until morning.

The Friday night opening of the Eucharistic Congress included a concert of sacred music and a talk by keynote speaker Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

The concert choir included approximately 70 singers from 17 parishes across the Diocese of Charlotte accompanied by a trumpeter and an organist.

"One of the pieces we sang was a musical setting of the angelus prayer [from Biebl's 'Ave Maria']," said Dr. Larry

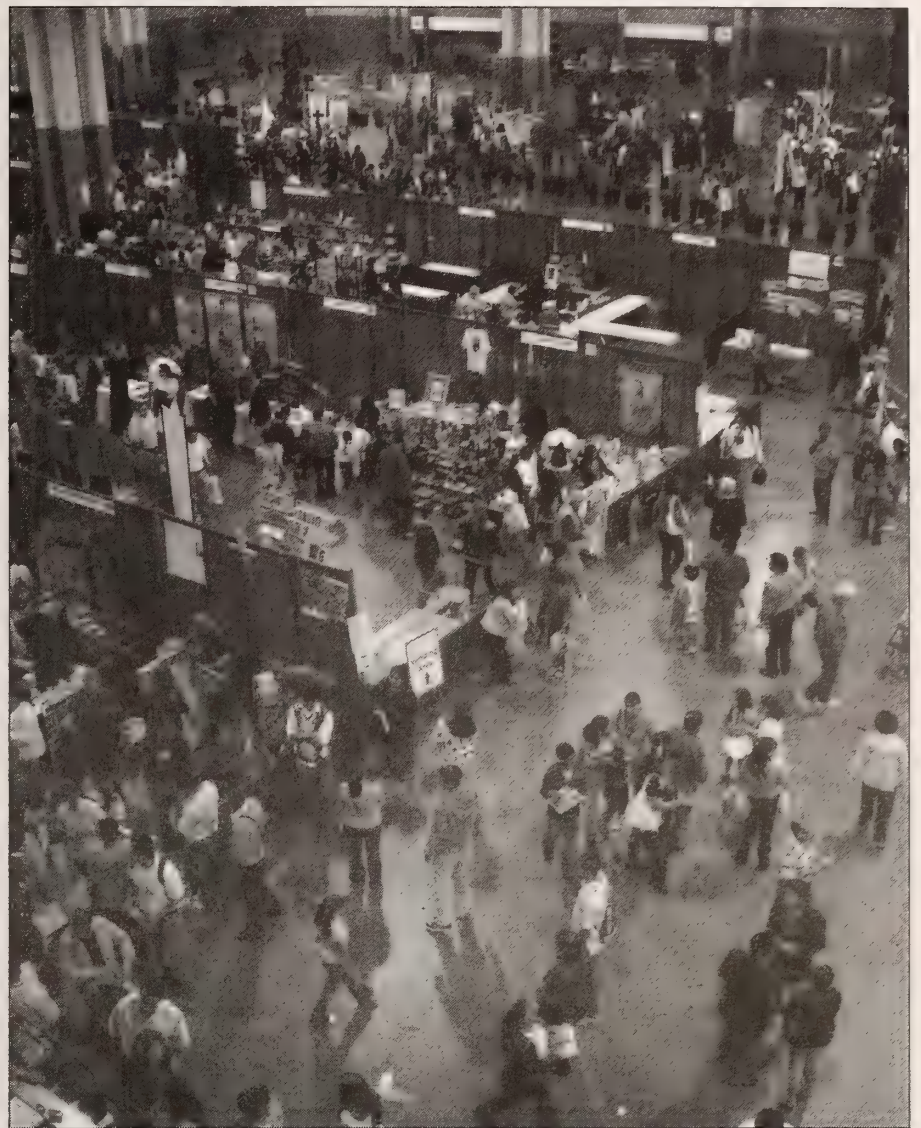


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Participants of the fifth annual Eucharistic Congress browse the vendor area between speaker presentations at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 26.

Stratemeyer, concert director. "Within that text is 'The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us.'"

"It is not only a beloved piece for people to listen to and to sing but it was also the centerpiece of our theme," he said.

Keynote speaker Ilibagiza expanded upon her Friday evening talk about the power of forgiveness and prayer, especially of the rosary, in a Saturday discussion of the Marian apparitions at Kibeho in Rwanda, Africa.

Expanding knowledge

Ilibagiza's Saturday morning presentation was part of an entire day of opportunities for all ages and interests, which were organized into specific programs called tracks. The general track consisted of three talks in English paralleled by three presentations in Spanish for the Hispanic track. Tracks were also available for youth and children, split into the three categories of high school, middle school, and kindergarten through grade five.

"They were great speakers, the best so far," said Linda Dillon, parishioner of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville, who has attended all five annual events.

Referring to Father Leo Patalinghug, whose talk "Grace Before Meals" was part of this year's general track, Dillon said "his humor and very energetic presentation keep you interested."

"The speakers are phenomenal," said Dr. Larry Kwan, parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. "I could sit there all day."

Jennifer Shinn, parishioner from

St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and past children's track volunteer, said the Eucharistic Congress was a "very good experience" for her and increased the love of the faith for the children.

"It was extremely well organized, with two adults for each small group, bags full of activities, art projects, lunch provided, stories and dances," Shinn said.

"Each year is a different experience," said Leslie Choate, parishioner from St. Frances of Rome Church in Sparta.

"For me, it is a day of pride, when we can come together and share the presence of our Savior with everyone," said Choate. "It is one of those 'wow' moments, a very humbling experience, to walk the streets of Charlotte and say this is what we're all about."

Throughout the day, a large area was filled with more than 80 vendors who provided information about religious ministries and sold books written by the speakers and a wide variety of religious items.

Congress participants spent time in eucharistic adoration and hundreds received the sacrament of Reconciliation offered by priests in both English and Spanish.

All events concluded with a late-afternoon vigil Mass.

"The Eucharistic Congress helps us grow in our amazement of the real presence of Christ with us in the Holy Eucharist," said celebrant Bishop Jugis, who announced plans for the sixth Eucharistic Congress to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 10-11, 2010.

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The many faces of faith

Catholics gather from across diocese

Participants at the fifth annual Eucharistic Congress came from a variety of backgrounds and walks of life. The common thread of the universal Catholic faith connected them during the course of the congress.



PHOTO BY BILL WASHINGTON

The multitude of banners carried into the Charlotte Convention Center by parishioners during the eucharistic procession Sept. 26 represent a wide participation by the 93 churches and missions of the Diocese of Charlotte.



PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Members of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul from High Point pray the rosary during the eucharistic procession Sept. 26.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Parishioners from St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro offer joyful music to the Lord with drums and song during the eucharistic procession Sept. 26.



PHOTO BY BILL WASHINGTON

Thomas Moore, a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, bows his head in prayer during the eucharistic procession Sept. 26. Nuns and first communicants can be seen following him in the background.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Children dance and sing as part of the youth track during the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 26.



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Hispanic track fills 3,000 seats

Participants impassioned by program of speakers

HISPANIC, from page 1

believe because they don't know and they don't have anyone to tell them about it," said Father Lawson.

His talk focused on making theological sense of the Incarnation and God's promise to his people that he would be born of human flesh in order to redeem them.

A second speaker in the Hispanic track, Maria de la Defensa Michel, is a homemaker with a master's degree in civil engineering who now spends the majority of her time proclaiming the kingdom of God.

Through the assistance of an interpreter, she told The Catholic News & Herald that the message of her presentation was the Incarnation of Jesus and how we become carriers of the Incarnate Jesus when we receive the sacrament of holy Communion.

"When we receive the Eucharist, we become eucharistic," she said. "We are called to bring the Incarnate Jesus in ourselves to the world."

A third presenter, Milton Lopez, felt called to work in the new evangelization, new ways of bringing the Gospel to all, after experiencing a personal encounter with Christ in 1985.

"At that time I was a musician," said Lopez.

He recalled the days of touring with his band across the United States and how he was enthralled by material things.

"I was very lonely," he said. "I was looking for an answer."

It was at a Cursillo retreat, a movement which seeks to promote faith renewal for adults, that Lopez had a personal encounter with Jesus.

Now he spends the majority of his time proclaiming the Gospel by speaking at retreats and teaching weekly religion classes.

"New evangelization is the same Gospel but uses different ways of communication," explained Lopez, who utilizes radio, TV, books and music to "bring the Gospel to the reality of life."

His message was simple: "Love," he said. "Jesus is love."

Making an impression

Those who attended the Hispanic track had unique and personal reactions to the eucharistic procession and the speakers.

Rosana Caruso, parishioner of St. James Church in Concord and

immigrant from Argentina, said she only occasionally attends Sunday Mass and was not even planning to attend this year's events.

At the last minute she came and, with tears in her eyes, declared "I found God today."

After hearing the first speaker, Father Lawson, she said, "Something big inside is changing. We all think we have God, but today we really can say God is with us."

Father Lawson's talk also made a big impression on Juana Martinez, parishioner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

"He said we not only need to believe in him but believe him when he says he gave his life for our salvation," she explained.

Martinez said that this year's event, her third experience of the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte, seemed to have doubled in attendance from last year. Each of the 3,000 seats in the Hispanic hall was filled for the entire day.

"At first I attended as a curiosity, I

was used to it in Mexico," she said. "I was amazed to see all the people gathered and the procession took my breath away."

She joined in the singing in the streets and immediately "fell in love with it."

This year she brought her brother and sister to experience the fact that "God is here with us and wants to change us to be similar to him."

Juan Morales, parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, said he came with his girlfriend's family. Originally from Guatemala, he said the Eucharistic Congress reminds him of similar processions at home.

"I wanted to see everything," he said.

When he heard the singing, he said it reminded him of home and brought tears to his eyes.

"Tomorrow I remember my father died two years ago, it's the anniversary," said Morales. "I prayed for my family, and I want to change my life for good. I want salvation with Jesus. I want him to touch my heart."

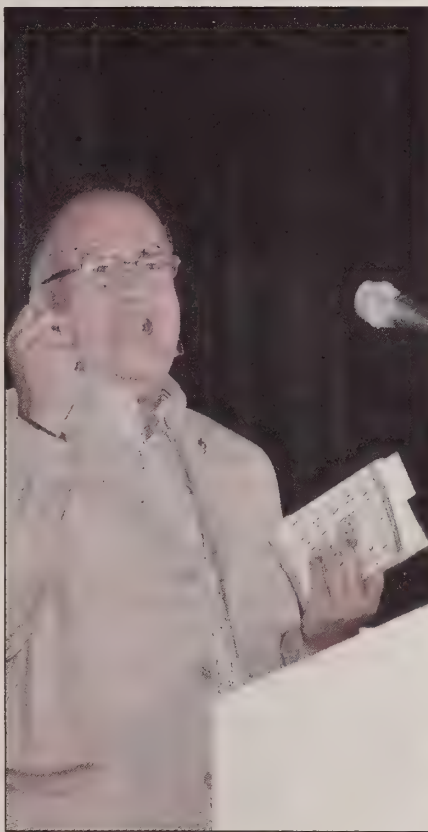


PHOTO BY BILL WASHINGTON

Milton Lopez (above) holds a Spanish copy of the Catholic catechism as he speaks to the audience in the Hispanic track of the fifth annual Eucharistic Congress Sept. 26. Participants (right) sway and clap to the musical portion of the Hispanic track presentations.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

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THE NUN RUN



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Alicia Torres takes a lunchtime run outside the Cardinal Meyer Center in Chicago Sept. 8. She ran the Chicago Half Marathon Sept. 13 to help raise funds so she can pay off her student loans and become a nun.

For the long haul

Chicago woman runs in order to raise funds to enter religious life

CHICAGO (CNS) — When Alicia Torres laced up her running shoes and tackled the 13.1 miles of the Chicago Half Marathon Sept. 13, her goal was to become a nun.

Torres is not a runner and had never run a distance race. But she ran the race as part of an appeal to friends and strangers to help pay off more than \$90,000 in student loans so she can enter religious life.

When Torres felt God calling her to this vocation, she realized there was one major obstacle in her path — \$94,000 in student loans that must be paid off to enter the Franciscan community she has chosen. Most of her loans are held by private lenders so they can't be consolidated or the interest rates negotiated.

It is a contemporary issue. Men and women graduate from college with student loan bills and feel God calling them to join communities that take vows of poverty. But they must enter debt-free since the communities do not typically have resources to pay off the loans.

The 24-year-old graduated in 2007 from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in theology and bioethics and works in the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Facing this large debt and feeling God's call to her becoming clearer every day, Torres chose to do something

public to seek help. She took the "nun run" vocation idea literally and decided to run a half marathon to call attention to her situation and to encourage donations.

Torres created www.TheNunRun.com to chronicle her journey. Several of her friends ran the half marathon with her in solidarity.

She is also working with the Laboure Society (www.labourefoundation.org), a nonprofit that provides financial assistance to individuals who must eliminate personal debt in order to pursue their vocations to the priesthood or religious life.

Torres tells anyone who asks that she's not looking to get out of paying her loans. She will continue to work until they are paid and she can enter the community free and clear. She's just looking for help to realize her vocation sooner rather than later.

She is peppered with questions and comments whenever she shares her story. Why can't her parents pay the loans for her? (They don't have the means and still have kids at home.) Why doesn't she just get a better-paying job? (She's doing good work where she is.) Why can't the community pay it for her? (They have a vow of poverty.)

They are all questions she takes in stride and opportunities she uses for evangelization.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 11, 2009

October 11, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
- 2) Hebrews 4:12-13
- 3) Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

A little bit of heaven

Need for God exists regardless of finances

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm looking forward to visiting my church's twin parish in Haiti in a few months. My standard explanation for traveling to the impoverished Caribbean island every couple of years is that I go there to find God. For me, Haiti is a little bit of heaven.

One wouldn't think so, given the Haitians' daily struggle for survival without the barest necessities for living: potable water, food, electricity, basic medical care. But in reading this weekend's Gospel about the rich young man who asks Jesus what is required to enter the kingdom of heaven, I think of my Haitian friends. In today's parlance, "They're there!"

The pastor of the parish in Cabestor,

Haiti, helped me see why. He recently visited our church community in Virginia, and one evening over dinner I discussed with him how hard it is to be a pastor in Haiti.

He agreed, explaining that a continuous flow of parishioners come to him for help. "They say, 'I'm hungry, I need money, my child is sick.' Sometimes I can help. But usually I can't. I don't have what they ask for — in Haiti there is no money, there is not enough food.

"They keep coming, but I tell them I can't provide those things," the priest said. "I remind them to look to God for help. They come to Mass, and they always keep faith in God because they know food and money aren't what they most need. They need the love of God, and they know God cares for them and their children."

Then he smiled wryly. "Here in the United States it's different," he said. "People have money. They have food. But they don't know what to do with it. They know it doesn't bring them faith," he explained. "They know they need something more, but they don't know how to find it. That's difficult too."

Guiding people to God, he said, "is different here."

Living in a wealthy society presents a particular difficulty. Jesus made this point to his disciples after the rich man went away. Attachment to worldly comforts and success is hard to break. One can forget a need that will come soon enough: the need for God.

Questions:

What material attachments are obstacles to your relationship with God? When have you experienced a deep need for God that couldn't be fulfilled through your own resources?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; Monday, Jonah 1:1-2, 11, Jonah 2:3-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday, Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; Friday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi), Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11-17

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; Monday, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; Tuesday, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; Wednesday (St. Callistus I), Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; Thursday (St. Teresa of Avila), Romans 3:21-30, Luke 11:47-54; Friday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque), Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday (St. Ignatius of Antioch), Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12.

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House resolution honors work of women religious in United States

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. House resolution passed Sept. 22 “honors and commends Catholic sisters for their humble service and courageous sacrifice throughout the history” of the nation.

The resolution approved with a voice vote also specifically supports the goals of a traveling exhibit on women religious in the United States that is being sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The resolution was introduced by Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, and co-sponsored by 67 members of both parties.

In speaking on the floor of the House in support of her resolution, Kaptur, a Catholic, cited the history of Catholic sisters in the country dating back to 1727, and their roles in nursing during the Civil War, in health care today, and in education and other types of ministries. She noted that since 1980 at least nine U.S. sisters have been killed for their work; they include three Ohio nuns murdered in El Salvador in 1980.

The resolution also cited the legacy of the nuns who were murdered “while working for social justice and human rights overseas.”

Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., a member of the United Brethren in Christ, also offered remarks for the Congressional Record about the influence of the sisters

in his state, particularly St. Mother Theodore Guerin, who established a system of parish schools in Indiana.

The resolution said “the social, cultural and political contributions of Catholic sisters have played a vital role in shaping life in the United States” and that “such women have joined in unique forms of intentional communitarian life dedicated to prayer and service since the very beginnings of our nation’s history, fearlessly and often sacrificially committing their personal lives to teaching, healing and social action.”

In addition, the resolution noted that about one in six hospital patients in the United States is treated in a Catholic facility and that Catholic sisters “have been among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to work and educate among the poor and underserved, and to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example.”

They also “continue to provide shelter, food and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons,” it said.

It also noted that Catholic sisters “work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality and democracy in principle and in action.”

“The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis ... throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for some of the most at-risk populations,” the resolution said.

The traveling exhibit “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America” opened in the Women’s Museum of Dallas Sept. 25, after a three-month showing at the Cincinnati Museum Center. The exhibit will move on to the Smithsonian’s S. Dillon Ripley Center in Washington in January, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York next September and the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa, in early 2011.



CNS PHOTO BY BETH DONZE, CLARION HERALD

Debbie Fagnano plays the calliope on a New Orleans steamboat Sept. 18. She also is a parish minister of music in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Music, a magnet for faith

Musician uses happy tunes to connect Catholics to faith

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — As the player of one of the country’s two working calliopes, Debbie Fagnano has a unique view from her perch atop the New Orleans steamboat Natchez.

Making people happy through the calliope’s joyful strains is her trade, and Fagnano, 54, is happy to oblige on the musical instrument fitted with steam whistles, played from a tiny keyboard.

When she is not playing the calliope, chances are she’s at the organ at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Belle Chasse, playing for the Saturday vigil and Sunday morning Masses, and directing the parish’s youth and adult choirs in her role as minister of music.

“On Saturdays I go from the boat to church, and on Sundays I go from church to the boat,” she said. “I’m on the river seven days a week.”

Born and raised across the river from New York City in Fairview, N.J., Fagnano comes from an extended family of musicians. Her Italian-born grandfather was a classical violinist, guitarist and mandolin player; her mother sang in her school and church choirs; and her father moonlighted with his brothers as a trumpeter in the house band of a local restaurant.

“I don’t ever remember not knowing about music,” said Fagnano, who began formal piano lessons at 7. “I remember being barely able to sit on the bench and plucking out little tunes on the piano before I even started school.”

After earning her degree in music

education from Jersey City State College and the University of Houston, Fagnano moved to New Orleans in 1988, smitten with a place she had discovered on countless vacations. She also was lured by the many musical opportunities spawned by the city’s hosting of the Republican National Convention that year.

“I loved the jazz. I loved the food. I would go to all the clubs and listen to all the music,” Fagnano recalled in an interview with the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. “I used to sit in the airport on the way (back to New Jersey) and cry because I didn’t want to leave.”

In 1989, when illness forced the Natchez’s regular calliope player to leave, Fagnano auditioned for the spot.

A professional highlight was her dedication of an extended calliope concert to New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond on Aug. 20, the day of his installation at St. Louis Cathedral.

When it comes to her music ministry, Fagnano said she believes the primary purpose of church music is to enhance the liturgy, not to entertain.

“Even the congregational hymns that I select should be appropriate to that day so the music becomes a very vital part of the liturgy,” Fagnano said.

At her parish church, Mass is more than “just showing up, sitting there for an hour and going home. We participate. Our church is a singing church,” Fagnano said.

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New board for ancient order



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured above are the elected officers of the first County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic-Irish organization, in North Carolina. They were installed in a special ceremony Sept. 24 at St. Mark's Episcopal parish hall in Huntersville.

The installation was performed by Bruce Thompson, the president for the North Carolina Ancient Order of Hibernians.

A County Board can be formed when there are two or more Ancient Order of Hibernians divisions located in a single county. The two divisions in Mecklenburg County are Sons of Erin division in Charlotte and the St. Brendan the Navigator division in Huntersville.

The new County Board consists of members from both divisions. The president, secretary, treasurer and marshal are selected from the Sons of Erin division. The vice president, financial secretary, standing committee chairman and sentinel are from the division of St. Brendan the Navigator.

Collecting cans



COURTESY PHOTO

Student Council representatives and officers at Our Lady of Grace School are pictured with Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, and nearly 600 pounds of canned goods collected for Urban Ministry, an ecumenical outreach agency in Greensboro that provides crisis intervention and emergency services through the basics of food, shelter, and clothing.

The student council collected one can of food per student in conjunction with a fundraiser for a school "dress down" day and the middle school dance. Jeff Smith, maintenance supervisor at the school, delivered the truckload of food to Urban Ministry Sept. 21.

Honoring our catechists



COURTESY PHOTO

Patricia Dicarlo (right) and Amy Weckworth (left), teachers at Saint Pius X School in Greensboro, are shown enjoying lunch provided by the Youth Stewards in Action Committee of St. Pius X Church Sept. 9. "Our teachers are the ones who reinforce the importance of stewardship to our children on a daily basis" said committee member Karen Lizotte.

The committee will host a similar event in October to honor the catechists of faith formation for middle school and high school. "This is a small way to show our teachers and catechists that we appreciate them," said Lizotte.

The Youth Stewards in Action Committee was formed in 2008 to bring parish and school youth leaders together to improve communication and to create a greater sense of parish-wide community among youth.

The committee meets monthly to highlight a stewardship topic which becomes the focus of the entire parish. The theme is intended to support catechesis in the parish and encourage youth to participate in related discussions and service opportunities. The October theme is Stewardship of Prayer.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Passing on the Cup

Rules may differ but health safety is common concern

BY DAVID HAINS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

CHARLOTTE — With the early outbreak of flu season, parishes around the Diocese of Charlotte are taking different approaches to prevent the spread of the viral illness that brings fever, sore throat and general misery.

Unlike the Diocese of Raleigh, which has banned handshaking during the sign of peace and the consumption of the precious blood of Christ in the Communion cup, parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte are allowed to decide for themselves which practices to follow.

At St. Eugene Church in Asheville, Father Ed Sheridan has asked parishioners not to be offended when someone does not choose to shake hands during Mass. In his weekly bulletin letter, Father Sheridan wrote, "We do not know the reason for their actions but I am sure it is for health reasons and not an unfriendly action. It is very important that we do join our hearts and minds in our prayers, not necessarily our hands. Again, use your good judgment and sensitivity."

The sign of peace, which usually includes handshakes between Mass attendees, is an optional part of the liturgy.

Next door to St. Eugene Church at Asheville Catholic School, a different set of rules is being followed at the weekly Mass. Children, who often carry more germs than adults, are not allowed to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer, exchange handshakes in the sign of peace or consume the precious blood of the cup.

Church teaching specifies that

Christ is truly present in the consecrated host and that an individual receives the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ when receiving Communion under only one species.

At St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, the use of a gymnasium during the construction of a new church has already curtailed the consumption of the precious blood by the laity at Mass.

Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Church, says that because of the flu parishioners have been asked to be "mindful and respectful of those around them who may not want to shake hands during the sign of peace."

At St. William Church in Murphy Father George Kloster, the pastor, is taking what he calls a total libertarian approach. "For us it is liturgy as usual," he said. Kloster is leaving decisions about shaking hands and sharing the cup up to parishioner's individual judgment. "If they don't want the cup, they don't have to take it. But if the (flu) situation were to change, we would adapt to whatever information we received from the diocese or the health department."

At St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, an announcement is read before all Masses that states, "St. Matthew has assumed a proactive role in securing the health and well-being of its faith community. To do so, parishioners are individually encouraged to take necessary precautions at their discretion."

Diocesan churches have exercised individual authority over hand shaking and the use of the communal cup during past flu seasons. Bishop Peter J. Jugis said he is continuing to monitor the situation throughout the diocese.

Catholic sports engender excellence

Annual Charlotte Catholic High School awards recognize achievements

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The outstanding achievements of three individuals and an entire team were honored Sept. 25 with the annual Sports Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumnus awards at Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS).

While players from Charlotte Catholic and Olympic high schools took a break at half time at Keffer stadium, the Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association honored the 1992 Boys' Varsity Soccer Team; Coach Ken Hazen; and Matt Kerry, class of 1991, for outstanding athletic achievements. Also recognized was Bill Whittaker, class of 1975, who was named Distinguished Alumnus for 2009.

Sports Hall of Fame

Sports Hall of Fame inductees were selected based upon their outstanding athletic achievements at CCHS.

The 1992 Varsity Soccer Team is the first soccer team in CCHS history to win a state championship. With a 26-0-0 season, this team was ranked 19th in the nation by USA Today.

Coach Ken Hazen started teaching and coaching basketball at the high school in 1976 and was named Varsity Men's Basketball Conference Coach of the Year for 1997 and 2000. Hazen has also served as the Varsity Men's Tennis Coach for 32 seasons and 19 consecutive conference championships. Hazen was named Charlotte Observer's Men's Tennis Coach of the Year for 2005 and 2008.

"There's such a sense of community," said Hazen. "The teams at Charlotte Catholic just grow, and the senior members look out for the younger, new members."

Matt Kerry was a three-sport athlete at CCHS, playing football, baseball and basketball. Kerry lettered three years in varsity football, four years in varsity baseball, and two years in varsity basketball.

When asked if his children, two boys aged seven and eight, would attend Charlotte Catholic one day, Kerry responded, "I hope so!"

Distinguished Alumni Award

The 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, Bill Whittaker, class of 1975, was honored for excellence demonstrated through his endeavors and his representation of the ideals of CCHS.

After graduating CCHS, Whittaker began a career in the practice of law in 1988. His commitment to service ideals was formally recognized in 2003, when he was named the Mecklenburg County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service "Attorney of the Year" for



COURTESY PHOTO BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Distinguished Alumnus award recipient Bill Whittaker, class of 1975, claps as Coach Ken Hazen is inducted into the Charlotte Catholic High School Sports Hall of Fame Sept. 25. Hazen was recognized for his consistent, excellent work as coach in football, basketball, and tennis at the high school since 1976. Whittaker was recognized at the same event for his personal example of service and representation of the ideals of the high school.

distinguished service.

Whittaker made service central to his personal life as well, exemplified by volunteer work with St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, the Waxhaw-Weddington Rotary Club, Union County Red Cross, D.A.R.E., Matthews Chamber of Commerce, Matthews Athletic & Recreation Association and many other charitable organizations.

Whittaker contributed to Catholic leadership in the early 1990s through service as assistant leader for Chi Rho, a Catholic student organization at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He also serves the university as a current member of the UNC-Charlotte Athletic Association.

In 2000, Whittaker joined the UNC-Charlotte Alumni Association board of directors and spearheaded the establishment of their need-based Dr. Gregory Davis scholarship and endowment. He explained, "This is the first year of the program, which awarded around \$10,000 in need-based scholarships."

"It's probably what I am most proud of," said Whittaker.

Looking back at his time at CCHS, Whittaker remembers annual student retreats as the highlights of his education. Despite typical teenager antics, Whittaker said the events were "excellent, spiritual and full of fun," and nurtured positive relationships among the students and mix of clergy and lay teachers.

Regarding the tight-knit community, Whittaker remarked, "There were only 72 (members) in our graduating class." He added, "We felt such a sense of camaraderie."



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Protecting the vulnerable

Appreciation for the sanctity and dignity of each unique human life

Respect Life Sunday, this year celebrated on October 4th, is a day set aside for Catholics in the United States to reflect with gratitude on God's priceless gift of human life. It is also an occasion to examine how well we, as a nation and individually, are living up to our obligation to protect the rights of those who, due to age, dependency, poverty or other circumstances, are at risk of their very lives.

In the current debate over health care reform, it has become evident that a number of Americans believe that the lives and health of only some people are worth safeguarding, while other classes of people are viewed as not deserving the same protection. Such an attitude is deplorable, all the more so in the context of health care. Sanctioning discrimination in the quality of care given to different groups of people has no place in medicine, and directly contravenes the ethical norms under which Catholic hospitals and health care providers operate.

Protecting children

Unborn children remain the persons whose lives are most at risk in America: Over one million children each year die in abortion facilities. The Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 rendered states powerless to halt this killing. Thankfully Congress and most states acted to prevent public funding of abortions (with narrowly defined exceptions). Yet despite the opposition of 67% of Americans to taxpayer-funded abortion, all current health care proposals being considered by Congress would allow

Respect Life Sunday

CARDINAL JUSTIN F. RIGALI



or mandate abortion funding, either through premiums paid into government programs or out of federal revenues.

It bears repeating: Abortion — the direct, intentional killing of an unborn girl or boy — is not health care. Abortion robs an innocent child of his or her life, and robs mothers of their peace and happiness. For 25 years, the Project Rachel post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church has helped women move beyond their grief and remorse after abortion, helping them find peace by accepting God's forgiveness and by forgiving themselves and others involved in the abortion decision. Abortion funding can only increase the number of dead and grieving.

Protecting immigrants

Unborn children are not the only human beings disfavored under current proposals. Many people insist that undocumented persons living and working in the United States should not be allowed in any new system to purchase health-care coverage, and that poor legal immigrants be denied coverage for the first five years they

are in the United States. Do immigrants forfeit their humanity at the border? How can a just society deny basic health care to those living and working among us who need medical attention? It cannot and must not.

Death is not a solution

While most Americans agree that those who cannot afford health insurance should have access to health care, some commentators have gone so far as to suggest offsetting the cost of expanded coverage by curtailing the level of care now given to elderly Americans. Other pundits have suggested that treatment decisions should be based not on the needs of the elderly patient, but on the patient's allegedly low "quality of life" or the cost-effectiveness of treatment calculated over the patient's projected lifespan. Such calculations can ignore the inherent dignity of the person needing care, and undermine the therapeutic relationship between health professionals and their patients.

It should not be surprising that the neglect, and even the death, of some people are offered as a solution to rising health care costs. Population control advocates have long espoused aborting children in the developing world as a misguided means for reducing poverty.

Some environmentalists now claim that the most efficient way to curb global climate change is to make "family planning" more widely available in the developing world. As used by population control advocates, the innocuous term "family planning" includes abortifacient contraceptives, sterilization, and manual vacuum aspiration abortions.

Oregon, where health care for low-income patients is rationed by the state, has denied several patients the costly prescription drugs needed to prolong their lives, while reminding them that the assisted suicide option is conveniently offered under Oregon's health plan.

Many scientists justify the manipulation and killing of embryonic human beings in stem cell research, based on unsubstantiated hopes of finding new cures. Yet the facts increasingly show

this approach to pose risks to patients, and to women who may be exploited to provide eggs for the research.

Death is not a solution to life's problems. Only those who are blind to the transcendent reality and meaning of human life could support killing human beings to mitigate economic, social or environmental problems.

Appreciating life

The antidote to such myopia is to recover an appreciation for the sanctity and dignity of each unique human being.

Since the advent of widespread contraception and abortion, a cultural hostility to children has grown. They are often depicted as costly encumbrances who interfere with a carefree adult life. No fewer than six recent books are dedicated to defending the childless-by-choice lifestyle — for selfish reasons, or to counter "overpopulation," a thoroughly discredited myth. In fact, if married couples were to have more children, Medicare and Social Security would not be hurtling toward bankruptcy. Since 1955, because of fewer children and longer life spans, the number of workers has declined relative to the number of beneficiaries, from 8.6 to only 3.1 workers paying benefits to support each beneficiary. Without substantially more young people to enter the work force as young adults, in 25 years, there will be only 2.1 workers supporting each beneficiary. Eliminating our young does not solve problems even on pragmatic grounds. It adds to them.

Children, and those who are dependent on us due to disability or age, offer us the opportunity to grow in patience, kindness, and love. They teach us that life is a shared gift, not an encumbrance. At the end of life, we will be judged on love alone. Meanwhile, in the midst of so many challenges to life, we look to "Christ Jesus our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1), who offers to all the world a share in his victory over death.

Cardinal Justin F. Rigali is chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-life Activities.

Standing for life on the front lines

The example of Jim Pouillon

The front lines are always dangerous. Standing up for a just cause in the face of injustice is uncomfortable at best and deadly at worst. Jim Pouillon knew that.

According to LifeNews.com, almost every weekday for more than 10 years in Owosso, Mich., Pouillon publicly witnessed to the humanity of unborn life by holding a large picture of an unborn baby. With his oxygen tank and leg braces, he prayerfully endured verbal insults and projectiles.

But on Sept. 11, 2009, he paid the ultimate price. While holding a picture of an unborn baby on a public sidewalk in front of Owosso High School, Jim Pouillon was shot to death.

Scant media coverage has kept

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



most Americans in the dark concerning Pouillon's murder. But when an abortionist who makes his or her living killing innocent unborn babies is murdered, it's breaking news.

Killing is not the way of the nonviolent Jesus. Killing an abortionist

is gravely immoral. But the killing of unborn babies is also gravely immoral — arguably more immoral.

There's a double standard here. Where are all the news stories about Pouillon's murder?

I have a firsthand sense of what's happening here. Nearly every Thursday I stand with a few men and women on a public sidewalk near an abortion mill in Baltimore. There we pray the rosary and hold large pictures of aborted babies.

From passing motorists we get everything from thumbs up to middle fingers.

We live in a culture that often hides the truth. So when people are presented with the truth — like the reality of what an aborted baby looks like — many react with anger.

But most of the passing motorists are not angry; they are indifferent. It's mostly indifference that keeps the barbaric practice of abortion legal.

Why is it so difficult to persuade

Catholics and other believers to join us on the front lines?

Yes, it's potentially dangerous. But genuine Christianity cannot be lived in a protective shell.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, told me that "America will not reject abortion until America sees abortion."

Despite the tragic indifference of many, the seeds of pro-life activism are being planted in the consciences of many others who see the horrific pictures of aborted babies.

Jim Pouillon is a modern pro-life martyr. He shed his blood to help end the shedding of the blood of unborn babies.

Tertullian, an early church father, observed that during times of persecution the church's membership grew enormously. He wrote: "The blood of the martyrs is seed."

May Pouillon's death be a seed that inspires many to actively join pro-life efforts — even on the front lines!

Understanding the ‘Word made Flesh’

Participants grow in faith at Eucharistic Congress

Catholics from throughout the diocese and beyond came to St. Peter Church and the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25-26 by the thousands to nourish their faith in camaraderie with their fellow Catholics.

They had opportunities to grow closer to the risen Savior by praying and listening to inspiring music and speakers, each part of the program faithfully provided by the annual Eucharistic Congress.

“I look forward to listening to Immaculée Ilibagiza, the woman who found God in the slaughter of Rwanda,” said Hope Ziglar, parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

“But I also want and need to grow closer to the Lord and improve my spiritual life,” she added.

The theme of this year’s Eucharistic Congress was “The Word Became Flesh and Made His Dwelling Among Us.”

“This means that God Almighty humbled himself to become a human being and lives with us,” said Joannie Newsome, parishioner of St. Mary Church in Sylva.

“He knows our triumphs and

failures yet he still loves us, because he understands. Thus he forgives all of our failings — showing that he is, indeed, pure love,” said Newsome.

The speakers in all of the tracks — general, Hispanic, high school, middle school, and children — delivered profound messages to their audiences.

Some were impressed by a direct message to evangelize, as in the Holy Hour homily given by Bishop Felipe Estévez, auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese of Miami.

“Bishop Estévez said that we must continue to spread the word and bring more people into the church, something we can accomplish by showing pride in our Catholicity and the strength of our faith,” said Louis Bauer, parishioner of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Others found a strong message of unconditional forgiveness, as in the talk given by Immaculée Ilibagiza.

“(I learned that) our Lady only knows grace and mercy rather than justice,” said Joe Otranto, parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro.

“Now I will have a renewed devotion to our Lady in daily prayer, especially

Guest
Column

DEACON
GERALD
POTKAY
GUEST COLUMNIST

through devotion to the rosary and her Seven Sorrows,” he added.

Still others enjoyed the message of Father Leo Patalinghug in his talk titled “Grace Before Meals,” which expressed the importance of family meal times for the growth of children’s spirituality and the adhesiveness of family life.

Though participants ranged from the very young to the very old, all had the strong desire to walk with their Eucharistic Lord through the streets of Charlotte. They did it to honor the Lord, whom they love and through whom they increase their faith.

Deacon Potkay serves at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

Czechs should
resist relativism,
consumerism

The Pope
Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped that his recent trip to the Czech Republic would help the largely secular country rediscover its Christian roots and resist the evils of relativism and consumerism.

At his general audience in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 30, the pope had warm words for his religious, political and cultural hosts during the three-day trip that took him to Prague, Brno and Stara Boleslav.

Pope Benedict told the faithful gathered in the sunny piazza that his trip had been “both a pilgrimage and a mission.”

The Czech people are undergoing a difficult moment, he said, like the rest of Western Europe. The “long winter” of atheism under 40 years of communist rule has produced “the poisonous effects of a certain secularism and Western consumerism.”

To resist these tendencies, he said, young people should be encouraged to invest their time in charitable and educational activities and to imitate Christ.

Here is the text of the pope’s audience remarks in English.

My Apostolic Journey to the Czech Republic last weekend was both a pilgrimage and a mission. It was a pilgrimage on account of the many saints who bore witness to Christ in the Czech lands through their holy lives, and it was a mission because, at the present time, Europe needs to rediscover the joy and hope that come from following the Lord Jesus. I pray that our liturgical celebrations in Prague’s magnificent Cathedral, in Brno and in Stará Boleslav will have served to deepen the faith and enkindle the Christian commitment of the people of Central Europe, especially the young.

I am most grateful to the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in the Czech Republic who made me so welcome, especially to President Václav Klaus and Cardinal Miloslav Vlk. I was glad to have the opportunity to meet leaders of other Christian communities and to encourage them in the task of ecumenical dialogue. And it was a pleasure to come together with University Rectors and leading figures from the world of culture. I spoke with them of the need for scholarship to be rooted in truth, an integral truth that shuns the limitations of relativism and determinism.

I ask all of you to join me in praying that this visit may bear abundant spiritual fruit for the Czech people and for the unity and peace of the whole continent of Europe.

‘Birth Control Could Help Combat Climate Change’?

In case you missed the above headline of the Sept. 18 news story that originated in London, perhaps you may be interested to know more valuable information. As we enter this month dedicated to Respect for Life issues, let us examine this article in the light of our Catholic faith.

The article, which was circulated on the internet, states, “Giving contraceptives to people in developing countries could help fight climate change by slowing population growth, experts said.” The article also reports that, “More than 200 million women worldwide want contraceptives, but don’t have access to them, according to an editorial published in the British medical journal, Lancet.”

What is the net result of all this unfulfilled desire for contraceptives? The story reports that “76 million unintended pregnancies” occur every year.

The article continues, “If those women had access to free condoms or other birth control methods, that could slow rates of population growth, possibly easing the pressure on the environment, the editors say.”

Without further delay, let us list the assertions of this article that raise suspicion.

First, the piece begins with the assumption that man is responsible for climate change—a common, yet

unproven hypothesis.

It also assumes that contraceptives are the answer to slowing population growth.

However, in reality contraceptives often increase sexual activity rather than curb it. Those who rely upon them presume that they offer disease protection and pregnancy prevention without fail and without consequence.

Yet contraceptives are dangerously unreliable and unpredictable. The only reliable aspect of contraceptives is that their use always leads to sin and spiritual death.

The news article also postulates a common and glaringly false assumption that man is created for the world, not the world for mankind.

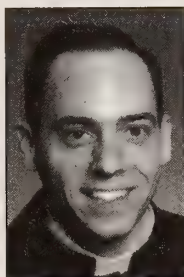
In other words, one of the common misconceptions of our post-modern age is that man is created to serve the environment, reflective of an unreasonable infatuation with environmental health.

Indeed, the Book of Genesis reveals that man is given proper stewardship over creation by God, but this stewardship is a function of his dominion over creation. Mankind must care for creation, but he is not creation’s slave, he is its master.

Finally, and most heinously, this news story attempts to capitalize on the modern fascination with ecophilia (the love of the environment) in an attempt to halt more children from birth.

Guest
Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



Sadly, more than a few Christians and even many who claim to be Catholic have already accepted the lie that contraceptives are good for relationships and marriage. At the same time these people endure the many deleterious side effects of contraceptive use, such as abuse, distrust, indifference, selfishness, and assorted medical problems associated with the contraceptive pill. Despite these facts, articles such as this news story still advance contraception as good for the environment.

As faithful Catholics, we should be able to identify and see through these subtle, yet unmistakably demonic attempts to thwart God’s plan of procreation and life. The fingerprints of the enemy are clearly imprinted on the page of this article.

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis holds the monstrance while Deacon John Eckert kneels at the altar in the Charlotte Convention Center just after the eucharistic procession in the streets of uptown Charlotte Sept. 26.

Eucharist is central to faith, congress

The fifth annual Eucharistic Congress of the Diocese of Charlotte venerated the Blessed Sacrament and made it central to all activities Sept. 25-26. Adoration lasted through the night Friday and continued all day Saturday.

The pinnacle of the congress was the Holy Mass, emphasized in a letter Bishop Peter J. Jugis wrote in anticipation of the weekend's events. He said, "The celebration of the Mass is the center of the whole Christian life, as the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (n. 16) reminds us." Bishop Jugis added, "It is through our participation in the Eucharistic sacrifice that the Lord constantly enlivens us so that we can faithfully do his work in the midst of our secular society."



PHOTO BY BILL WASHINGTON



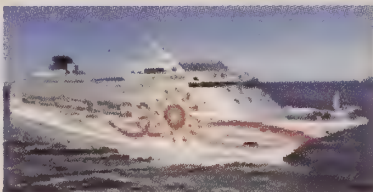
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For a brochure or info: Cindi Feerick at the diocese -- 704/370-3332 or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

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PHOTO BY BILL WASHINGTON

The experience of the holy sacrament of the Eucharist was the center of the Eucharistic Congress held Sept. 25-26. Members of the faithful from the Diocese of Charlotte (above) kneel in prayerful eucharistic adoration in an area designated for adoration during the congress. A parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin (top left) kneels to receive the Eucharist from Father Ben Roberts, parochial vicar of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, during the Mass. First communicants (top right) process through the streets of uptown Charlotte in advance of the Blessed Sacrament carried by Bishop Peter J. Jugis.



Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 9, 2009

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 18 No 42

Perspectives

Month of the Rosary;
Living through job loss;
The love of large families
| PAGES 14-15

True choice

*Planned center to care
for pregnant college
women*

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BELMONT — Lacy Dodd, a 33-year-old banking professional and mother of one, knows precisely where supporters and opponents of legal abortion can find common ground.

It's on nearly four acres donated by the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey in Belmont, N.C., where Room at the Inn, a Charlotte-based pregnancy resource center, hopes to build the nation's first campus-based maternity and after-care residence for pregnant college women.

Back in 1999, Dodd was a Notre Dame senior, pregnant and under pressure to have an abortion from the counselor at a local women's clinic and from her boyfriend, also a Notre Dame senior.

See CHOICE, page 6



St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte displayed a large-scale version of this 2009 promotional poster for Respect Life month during its launch of The Gabriel Project, a parish-based program of Catholic Social Services.

A herald of joy and hope

*Respect Life Sunday
kicks off new parish-
based program*

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — What's in a name? It appeared that the hand of God matched the parishioners of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte with a like-named ministry — The Gabriel Project.

On Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4, St. Gabriel Church hosted the launch of The Gabriel Project, a new parish-based outreach program created by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte to support women of all religious affiliations who are navigating

See GABRIEL, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A young girl stands in a Life Chain with other pro-life supporters outside St. Ann Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday Oct. 4.

A chain for life

Parishioners around diocese stand with pro-life signs

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishioners stood along the property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

People held pro-life signs with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

This show of support for

the sanctity of human life, called Life Chains, was part of a nationwide kick off for Respect Life month, observed this year by the U.S. Catholic Church on Oct. 4.

"The Life Chain provides an opportunity for all who cherish the gift of life to prayerfully witness to others," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life program director for Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR ADDITIONAL
LIFE CHAIN PHOTOS.

Health care and human life issues

*Medical specialists
speak at conference*

BY JEREMY KRYN
GUEST WRITER

Amidst the nation's current health care debate, the North Carolina Guild of the Catholic Medical Association recently convened a conference of nationally recognized speakers in Mount Airy to address human

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Culture Watch

A living mosaic; Priests
review movies; Musicians
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics
from around the world to your
own backyard

CATHOLIC CANONIZATION



CNS PHOTOS, COURTESY OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR (LEFT) AND THE DIOCESE OF HONOLULU (RIGHT)

Pope Benedict XVI announced that Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and Blessed Damien de Veuster, a Belgian missionary priest famed for his work with leprosy patients in Hawaii, will both be canonized at the Vatican Oct. 11. Blessed Jeanne (left) is seen in an image provided by her order and Blessed Damien (right) is depicted in a mosaic by Karen Lucas at Immaculate Conception Church in Lihue, Hawaii.

Charity in action

Impact of new saints continues in United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The long path to official sainthood is drawing to a close in October for Blessed Damien de Veuster, a missionary priest famed for his work with leprosy patients in Hawaii.

Pope Benedict XVI will canonize him Oct. 11 along with four others, including Blessed Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Both Blessed Damien and Blessed Jeanne are important figures for U.S. Catholics, and reflect the pope's priority on the faith as charity in action, especially toward society's outcasts and forgotten.

Neither was born in the United States, but both continue to have a major impact there. Hundreds of U.S. pilgrims will be descending on Rome for the canonization liturgy in St. Peter's Square.

Blessed Damien, a Belgian-born member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, is renowned for having spent the last 16 years of his life ministering to patients with Hansen's disease, or leprosy, on the island of Molokai in Hawaii. At that time, in the mid-19th century, lepers were considered outcasts and leprosy was an incurable disease.

Blessed Jeanne grew up in revolutionary France and formed a small prayer community. In 1839, at the age of 47, she brought home a sick and blind elderly widow, giving the woman her own bed. Eventually, caring for the abandoned elderly became the primary focus of her religious order, and remains so today for the approximately 2,700

Little Sisters of the Poor.

The two new saints were models of personal holiness and self-sacrifice, and epitomize the church's long record of service in health care. But in their own day they were not necessarily known as heroes.

Blessed Damien sailed for Hawaii in 1864, was ordained a priest and served there for eight years. When a priest was needed for the leprosy settlement on the island of Molokai in 1873, he volunteered. He found himself essentially alone as pastor, doctor, adviser and guardian to the approximately 800 residents suffering from the disease. Many hope he will be named the patron saint of those with HIV/AIDS and leprosy.

For Blessed Jeanne, recognition came long after her death — even in her own religious order. When she died in 1879 the younger members of her order didn't even know she was the foundress. Today she is known as the patron of the elderly, and is seen by many as introducing a unique model of health care delivery that has particular relevance in modern times of costly end-of-life care.

Blessed Jeanne and Blessed Damien seem to embody a favorite theme of Pope Benedict: that Christianity is not merely a "moral code" or a set of rules, but a religion that embodies love of God and neighbor. Although their causes have been under study by church authorities for decades, they are very much saints of this pontificate.

Catholic University president to step down in 2010

Father David O'Connell concludes 12 years

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Vincentian Father David O'Connell, president of The Catholic University of America, announced Oct. 2 that he notified the university's board of trustees he has decided to step down as president next August.

The priest, who is in his 12th year at the helm of the university, indicated he is considering several opportunities for the future but has made no specific commitments.

"That I have had the privilege of serving as the 14th president of The Catholic University of America is an experience that I shall treasure as long as I live," he wrote in his monthly newsletter to the university community.

"As I reflect upon my tenure and

service at the helm of the national university of the Catholic Church in our country," he said, "I feel a profound sense of gratitude for what we are and have become and what we do — thanks to the dedication, commitment and hard work of so many people here — and for the many lives we have touched in so many ways over the years."

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, chairman of university's board of trustees, will chair the search process for finding a successor to Father O'Connell, and will be assisted by fellow trustee Paul Chiapparone of Palm Beach, Fla.

According to a university news release, the board hopes to have a new president in place by Sept. 1, 2010.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The 67th semi-annual *Rosary Rally* will be held Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The rally will include the holy rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. The homilist will be Father Rick DeClue. Join us as we honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — "Grace in a Competitive World," a lecture by Carolyn Woo, the Martin J. Gillen Dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, will take place in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The presentation will explore the role of grace in our work and behavior given the highly competitive practices common in our culture. Admission is free and the lecture is open to the general public with a reception to follow. For more information, contact Greg Crawford at (630) 730-2787.

CHARLOTTE — The Young Adult Ministry of St. Peter Church will sponsor a *Theology on Tap* series Mondays during October from 6:30-8 p.m. at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St. *Theology on Tap* is a dynamic speaker series aimed at providing young adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed and open environment.

The series will explore important modern issues in today's society. The first session will take place Oct. 12 on the topic "Everything that I needed to know I learned in...Genesis," presented by Rich Yonakor. The second session will be Oct. 19 on the topic "Saying Yes to Christ: Your call to Serve," presented by Dr. Barney Offerman. For more information, contact rebhay@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — An *Ignatian Retreat for Women* will be offered at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall. The theme for the retreat is "Choices." Consider setting aside some time for personal reflection, prayer and silence. The retreat will conclude with Mass. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. To register, call the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail www.retreat4women@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Young Adult Life presents *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. The Real Life series will take place once a month from August through November. The series will take place at Harper's Restaurant, 11059 Carolina Place Pkwy. Come and mingle at 6:30 p.m., speaker will start around 7 p.m. The next session will be "Ask a Priest" Oct. 15, featuring clergy of St. Matthew Church, Father Patrick Toole and Father Patrick Cahill. For event details, visit www.meetup.com/youngadultlife or e-mail st.matthews.yal@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — "Guiding Youth Toward Making Healthy Choices," a presentation by Susie Vanderlip and the Legacy of Hope, will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 21 and 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Vanderlip, a national speaker and writer on prevention, youth and family issues, will convey a message of resiliency and hope in the midst of life's ups and downs. The Tuesday night program will focus on the high school age range and the Wednesday session is geared toward middle school. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 543-7677.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 9, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 42

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Aid tied to family planning is 'an abuse of power,' says papal nuncio

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's chief representative to the United Nations said giving foreign development aid only if a country adopts family planning programs that promote artificial birth control is "an abuse of power."

Speaking at the recent United Nations meeting in New York, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal nuncio to the world body, said true development entails respecting human life.

However, in some parts of the world, "development aid seems to be tied rather to the recipient countries' willingness to adopt programs which discourage demographic growth of certain populations by methods and practices disrespectful of human dignity and rights," he said.

In general, it "has been proven to be a naive or cynical and fatal delusion"

for leaders to think political, economic and social policies can be forged and managed without any ethical framework aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of all people, he said.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican's representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, addressed the needs of the millions of refugees and displaced peoples around the world.

He said that people who have been forced to migrate "urgently need access to opportunities affording integral human development."

If host countries and donors invest in more educational and vocational development programs for forcibly displaced people, then they will be helping alleviate some of the problems and the "negative conditions that caused these and other populations to move in the first place," he said.

CHARLOTTE — Join Fr. Patrick Hoare for *Encyclical Tuesdays* in November from 7-9 p.m. in the education wing at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., as he explores Pope Benedict's third encyclical, "*Caritas in Veritate*." This encyclical calls us to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies while linking charity and truth to the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development. Materials will be provided for this series of workshops. To reserve a space, call (704) 535-4197.

CHARLOTTE — The 2009 *Blanket Banquet* will be held on the front steps of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Catholics from various Charlotte area parishes are invited to help keep the homeless warm this winter by contributing extra blankets, sleeping bags, gently used coats and backpacks, as well as new undergarments and socks for both men and women. All are invited to come to the fellowship reception to distribute the items and share refreshments with brothers and sisters in need. For more information, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — A statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which was made in Portugal, is available for weekly home visitations from St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane. The statue can be taken to your home for one week beginning on Saturday evening or Sunday morning and must be returned the following Saturday by 5 p.m. Families are encouraged to use their week as an opportunity to pray for the intercession of our Blessed Mother. For more information, contact Deacon Art or Rosemary Kingsley at (828) 713-4341.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A charismatic healing Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., will be held Oct. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Fidel Melo with guest speaker Richard Collins, OLG parishioner, and music provided by Freeway. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. This Mass is sponsored by the parish health ministry and the Flames of Fire prayer group. For more

information, contact Ben D'Apollo at (336) 812-3730.

GREENSBORO — A public rosary crusade to honor Our Lady of Fatima and pray for our nation will take place every Saturday in October at the corner of Hwy. 68 and Skeet Club Rd. at 11:45 a.m. St. Louis de Montfort said, "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down his mercy, and holy mother church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering." Parking is available in the Big Lots parking lot. For more information, contact Ann Keefe at (336) 434-4174.

HIGH POINT — A fall session of HOSEA (*Hope of Seeing Everyone Again*) will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9 p.m. beginning Oct. 21 and running for six weeks. If you, or someone you know has been away from the Catholic Church but might want to come back, HOSEA is a small group setting where one can ask questions, get answers and find out what is new since they have been away. For information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., will be holding a free seminar on "How to Find the Hidden Job Market" Oct. 27. There is no charge for the seminar and dinner is included. This outreach effort is designed to meet the needs of the unemployed/under-employed throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 724-0561.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 13 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

Oct. 15 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Oct. 16 (10 a.m.)
Diocesan Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center

Oct. 17 (11 a.m.)
Centennial Celebration Mass
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Holy See urges 'nuclear-weapons-free zone' in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official called for the establishment of a "nuclear-free zone" in the Middle East and urged all countries to work toward total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's foreign affairs minister, released a statement Sept. 24 outlining the Vatican stance on nuclear disarmament. The U.N. Security Council held a summit the same day to discuss nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation.

"Nuclear-weapons-free zones are the best example of trust, confidence and affirmation that peace and security are possible without nuclear weapons," said Archbishop Mamberti. He strongly encouraged all countries with nuclear capabilities to adopt all the protocols of nuclear-free treaties and to "establish such a zone in the Middle East."

Under the treaties, nations agree to ban the development and use of nuclear weapons in a set location. The United States has not signed such a treaty. It has, however, signed the Non-Proliferation

Treaty, which aims at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Security Council summit adopted a resolution to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, calling for tighter controls on nuclear materials and encouraging the enforcement of international treaties dealing with nuclear nonproliferation.

Archbishop Mamberti said that responding to the modern world's need for safety and security "demands courageous leadership in reducing nuclear arsenals to zero."

He said the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is of "highest importance," adding that the universal banning of explosions of nuclear components in the testing phase "would inhibit the development of nuclear weapons, contributing to nuclear disarmament."

The summit was held in conjunction with the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and preceded the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which aims to promote universal adherence to the treaty.

Synod synchronization



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI leads the opening session of the Synod of Bishops for Africa in the synod hall at the Vatican Oct. 5.

Synod calls Africans to justice, peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — "On a continent, parts of which live under the shadow of conflict and death, the church must sow seeds of life," said Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana, as he opened the work of the second special Synod of Bishops for Africa Oct. 5.

Before the cardinal spoke to the synod assembly, Pope Benedict XVI opened the meeting with a spiritual reflection, calling the synod members

to listen to the Holy Spirit and to recognize that every blessing and every challenge is a result of human beings' relationship with God.

"We become Christians only if our faith is transformed into charity," he said.

Pope Benedict asked the synod members to work to ensure that the love of God, which is offered to all men and women, is able to cross boundaries of ethnicity, tribe and social class in Africa.

Parishioners around the Diocese of Charlotte gathered in Life Chains, holding pro-life signs along public routes on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. MATTHEW HARRISON

Redemptorist Father Joseph Dionne, pastor of St. James the Greater Church, stands with parishioners during a Life Chain along Route 29 in Concord Oct. 4.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A young boy holds a pro-life sign as he watches the Life Chain in front of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 4. Approximately 130 people participated in the Life Chain around the parish property.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A pro-life supporter holds a sign in Spanish outside Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte Oct. 4.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID FOPPE

Parishioners from Our Lady of Grace Church participate in the Greensboro Life Chain Oct. 4. Nearly 600 people stood for life at this year's event including five priests from the diocese of Charlotte. Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, is pictured.

FROM THE COVER

Respect Life Sunday kicks off new program

GABRIEL, from page 1

unplanned and crisis pregnancies.

The coincidence of the name St. Gabriel for the new project seemed a "natural connection" said Father Francis "Frank" O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church.

"It was as if the Holy Spirit was leading us," said Mary Lou Powers, Respect Life Committee chair for St. Gabriel Church.

Father O'Rourke and Powers contacted Catholic Social Services to find a hands-on way to engage their parish in Respect Life month. The Gabriel Project name caught their attention and they decided to help launch the pilot program at the parish.

Gabriel, the archangel who brought news to Mary of her pregnancy with Jesus, is a logical naming choice for a program which organizes concrete support services for unplanned and crisis pregnancies. Parish members trained in providing compassionate, practical help are called Gabriel Angels.

Through Catholic Social Services, the program also provides trained counseling, assistance with natural family planning, adoption and infant foster care, medical care referrals, mother and baby assistance (such as diapers and layettes), and Rachel's Vineyard services for post

abortion healing and reconciliation.

"There are so many aspects to becoming involved, so many opportunities to match up gifts and interests and 'plug in' to support women in need," said Father O'Rourke. "It is very important that we, as Catholic Christians who respect life, show mothers with unplanned or crisis pregnancies that they have the support of our parish, whatever their religious affiliation, in their time of need."

During all Masses for Respect Life Sunday, The Gabriel Project was introduced and parishioners were encouraged to visit sign-up tables. Answering questions at the tables were Catholic Social Services staff members Maggie Nadol, director of Respect Life; Geri King, director for the Charlotte Regional Office; and Jeannie Beall, director of adoptions and social work supervisor for the Charlotte Regional Office.

Colorful signboards prominently displayed The Gabriel Project artwork as parishioners signed up to become Gabriel Angels, offer prayers, and organize baby showers to collect items like maternity clothes, new car seats, mattresses, cribs, diapers, formula and baby clothes.

The parish has designated Oct. 24 as an inaugural Gabriel Angels training session, facilitated by Catholic Social Services.

St. Gabriel Church Christian Mother's Group Consignment Sale has plans to donate unsold gently used children's clothing, toys, furniture and accessories to The Gabriel



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Geri King, director for the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services, provides information to members of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte during the launch of The Gabriel Project on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4.

Project. Parishioners also have plans for parish-wide service projects to collect additional items.

Support for the project has also spread to St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, whose book club held a September baby shower and collected several items.

The group read "Silent Tears" by Kay Pratt, who spoke to the group of her passion for working with children during her five years in China. Book club facilitator Marilyn Armstrong said the group felt inspired to do something for children in this country, so they contacted Catholic Social Services and learned of The Gabriel Project from Geri King. More than 20 ladies brought baby items which served as the first donations to the mother and baby assistance portion of The Gabriel Project.

"Although it was hard to pass up buying the adorable baby outfits, I remember never having enough onesies and wanting enough pacifiers to stash everywhere!" said Pam Cavallero, St. Luke book club member who opted to bring practical necessities.

Reflecting on the women who will benefit from The Gabriel Project, Cavallero said, "I cannot imagine the pressure and just plain fear a woman must experience facing a pregnancy and birth alone. Or what she must perceive as being alone."

Cavallero continued, "Our church teachings tell us to respect life, all life,

and to me that includes the everyday life and spiritual life of these women facing this challenging situation.

"If we ask them to accept this new life as a gift, shouldn't we do everything we can to support them on their journeys?" added Cavallero.

"The Gabriel Project is a way that we can reach out to these women and let them know they are not alone. Ultimately, it is a way for us to 'live out our faith' and act upon our beliefs," she said. "We can all play a part in building the kingdom here on earth, one heart and one life at a time."



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Members of the St. Luke book club (left to right) Marilyn Ralmer, Carol Trautman, Marilyn Armstrong (facilitator), Mary Wasylak, and Carol Henderson stand behind fellow members Betty Romenello and Eileen Kotelés during the baby shower they recently organized to collect items for The Gabriel Project.

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FROM THE COVER

Planned center to care for pregnant college women

CHOICE, from page 1

She never considered abortion, and with the help of supportive family and friends, is now the proud mother of a 9-year-old daughter, whose name she prefers not to make public.

Dodd told her story to Catholic News Service and to radio listeners on Christopher Closeup, the half-hour weekly radio interview produced by the Christophers, available online as a podcast at www.christophers.org/CloseupPodcast.

"The great unique thing about our project is that it's nonpartisan, it's an initiative that everyone can support," Dodd told CNS. "Pro-life or pro-choice, if we want women to feel that they have a choice, this is where we can all agree."

"The lack of resources is a huge cause of abortion," she added. "If women feel that they don't have the emotional resources, the financial resources, the educational resources" that they need to choose to give birth, "we can focus on giving them that choice."

When Dodd and her daughter moved to Charlotte, she said she "finally had some stability in (her) life" and "felt called to get involved with a pregnancy resource center." That led her to Room at the Inn, the only Catholic pregnancy resource and maternity after-care facility in Charlotte.

Prompted by studies that showed that most young women do not perceive college campuses as places where pregnant students can get support, even when such resources are actually available, and thanks to the monks' donation of the land in 2005, the Room at the Inn board began a \$3 million capital campaign to build a residence that they hope will be a national model for other college campuses.

The facility — which will be open to students at other colleges or



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF LACY DODD

Lacy Dodd, an alumna of the University of Notre Dame and a member of the board of directors of Room at the Inn, is pictured with her daughter in an undated photo. Room at the Inn is a pregnancy resource center in Charlotte that hopes to build the nation's first campus-based maternity and after-care residence for pregnant college women.

vocational schools in the region — will have two residential wings housing up to 15 mothers, 15 infants and eight toddlers, as well as a chapel, laundry, playroom, kitchen and family-style dining room. Staff members with social work backgrounds will be on duty 24 hours a day.

The capital campaign is about halfway to its \$3 million goal, Dodd said, adding that she hopes it will be a model for other Catholic colleges nationwide, including her alma mater, Notre Dame.

She said she is encouraged by the decision of Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, to form a task force on supporting the choice for life in order to recommend ways that the university can support the sanctity of life.

"I hope this is an initiative that Father Jenkins' task force will consider, because it would meet the goals of the task force," Dodd said.

"This is a way that campus administrators can start walking the walk to help" pregnant women and parenting students, she added.

Office of Economic Opportunity to celebrate tenth anniversary

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

MURPHY — The Office of Economic Opportunity for Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte will celebrate its tenth anniversary at the Bishop Begley Center in Murphy during the fourth annual Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia Oct. 23-24.

This organization brings community and faith leaders together to build trust and share skills and scarce resources to address community needs. It operates based on the generosity of parishioners throughout the diocese who support Office of Economic Opportunity efforts with their contributions.

Monsignor Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, established the Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy when

Good Shepherd Home Health Care and Hospice closed. Msgr. West led community dialogue and planning efforts for more than a year before the Office of Economic Opportunity was launched Oct. 1999.

Catholic Charities USA honored the Office of Economic Opportunity with a family strengthening award in 2007. A variety of Catholic Charities agencies sent representatives from as far away as the Virgin Islands to Murphy to learn more about the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The strength and effectiveness of the Office of Economic Opportunity lies in its partnerships with other organizations, churches, and community leaders.

"It is truly an ecumenical effort and an example of networking at its best," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church, Murphy, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, Hayesville.

Medical specialists address pro-life issues

HEALTH CARE, from page 1

life issues. Hosted by Holy Angels Church, the conference included lectures by medical specialists in psychiatry, palliative care and fertility treatment.

Abortion and health

The conference convened with a presentation by psychiatrist Dr. Martha Shuping from Winston-Salem on "The Correlation Between Abortion and Mood-Altering Effects."

Shuping, an internationally recognized expert in post-abortion issues who has given medical testimony regarding the health effects of abortion to the Houses of Representatives of South Dakota and Maryland, explained how abortion is a huge risk factor for women's mental health.

"Women," Shuping said, "experience more stress from abortion than from rape." Focusing on psychiatric illness, she stated factors such as perceived coercion, existing mental illness, ambivalence about the abortion, a prior intention to have the baby, and adolescence all put women at higher risk for emotional side effects.

"Women who have had abortions experience anxiety, difficulty sleeping and a high rate of alcoholism and substance abuse, in addition to arthritis and heart disease," said Shuping.

"Women may also suffer from depression, causing them to drop out of school or to lose their jobs," she added.

Stem cell ethics

After a break for lunch, Greenville, SC palliative care specialist Dr. Mark O'Rourke, a former hospice medical director, addressed "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Ethics and Politics in 2009."

O'Rourke stated that human embryonic stem cell research is unjustifiable, mentioning that "the human embryo is a life, three to five days old."

While the Ten Commandments dictate "Thou shall not kill," the medical profession rejects utilitarian ethics, O'Rourke continued.

He expounded, "In fact, the medical profession goes out of its way to protect human life, rejecting the exploitation of organs from individuals on death row."

O'Rourke drew his talk to a close by stating, "since President Obama's executive order this year to support and conduct human embryonic stem cell research, extraordinary education is required on the unethical nature of the practice."

Fertility and medicine

Dr. Patrick Yeung, an expert in fertility awareness methods at the Duke Center for Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, concluded the day's event with the question: "What is Catholic medicine?"

Citing Pope Paul VI's well-known

encyclical "Humanae Vitae," Yeung said, "The two ends of the marital embrace are babies and bonding, procreative and unitive."

Yeung added, "Good ethics is good medicine."

Yeung cited "The Medical and Surgical Practice of NaProTechnology" by Dr. Thomas Hilgers, a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Natural procreative technology identifies the problems and cooperates with a woman's fertility, correcting the condition, maintaining the human ecology and sustaining the procreative potential.

Medical professionals interested in learning more about the Catholic Medical Association may visit its Web site www.cathmed.org, contact Dr. Ted Kryn, president of the North Carolina Guild for the Catholic Medical Association at (919) 550-9425 or doctorkryn@nc.rr.com.

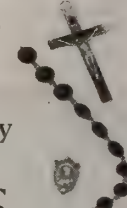
Jeremy Kryn, son of Dr. Ted Kryn, is a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Dunn, Diocese of Raleigh.

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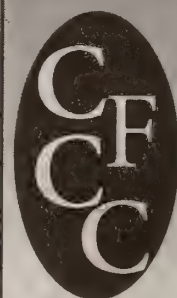


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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop issues flu precautions

BY DAVID HAINS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis has issued flu season guidelines for pastors and parishioners. These guidelines will lead to minor changes in the celebration of the Mass.

The Diocese of Charlotte, with the rest of the country, is making adjustments to accommodate the early onset of the annual flu season and the presence of the H1N1 swine flu virus.

Guidelines from Bishop Jugis address hand-shaking, hand-holding, and drinking from the Communion chalice of the precious blood.

Priests received an email of the guidelines Oct. 2. The full text of the bishop's letter follows.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter into the flu season, I write to ask you to exercise special precautions during the celebration of the Mass in order to limit the spread of the flu virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention remind us that the influenza virus is spread when a person who has the flu coughs, sneezes, or speaks and spreads the virus into the air, and other people inhale the virus. The virus is also spread when a person touches a surface with flu viruses on it and then touches his or her nose or mouth. Adults may be contagious from one day before developing symptoms to up to seven days after getting sick. Children can be contagious for longer than seven days.

Those persons who are sick with the flu should exercise consideration for their fellow parishioners and remain home so as to prevent spread of the virus.

Those persons who suspect they have been exposed to the virus should refrain from holding hands during Mass. Since the instructions for the celebration of Mass do not envision holding hands during the Our Father, holding hands is not required. Those persons who suspect they have been exposed to the virus should also refrain from the handshake at

the sign of peace, so as not to transmit the flu virus through hand-to-hand contact. Those persons whose health would be seriously compromised by contracting the flu virus should also refrain from such hand-to-hand contact.

Those persons who suspect they have been exposed to the virus should not drink from the chalice at the time of Holy Communion. Christ is received whole and entire in the consecrated Host and in the Precious Blood. As regards the reception of the Sacred Host, the communicant retains the right to receive either on the tongue or in the hand.

If pastoral need suggests it, pastors may suspend the practice of holding hands, and the handshake at the sign of peace, and drinking from the chalice.

If the priest decides to give Holy Communion by intinction, the communicant does not receive the Host in the hand, but only on the tongue. The communicant is not permitted to intinct the Sacred Host into the Precious Blood. The procedure to be used for intinction is found in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, n. 287.

All those who distribute Holy Communion should wash their hands before Mass begins. As a further precaution they may clean their hands again by using an alcohol-based antibacterial solution before distributing Holy Communion. After distributing Holy Communion they should purify their fingers using an ablution cup, and then may proceed to use the alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution again.

I am grateful for your attention to these important matters. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the Paschal Mystery of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, and deserves our utmost care and reverence. May our participation in the celebration of the Eucharist help us grow in love as one family in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

KNIGHT OF HONOR



PHOTO BY DON DAVIS JR. FOR HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

Special Olympian Rusty Corley (right), a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus, marches in with the honor guard last month during the opening day of the Miracle Field in High Point.

Knight to remember

Rusty Corley follows in his father's footsteps

BY JIMMY TOMLIN
HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE

HIGH POINT — Rusty Corley figures his dad, Fred, would have been proud.

Amid all the fanfare of opening day Saturday at the new High Point Miracle Field, an especially poignant story unfolded quietly during the opening ceremonies: Corley, a longtime Special Olympian, served in the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard — his first time for the distinction.

"It was a really neat experience," says Corley, 31, of High Point. "I'm sure (my father) would've been proud."

It may not seem like much, but don't miss the significance of the moment: On a field designed to let children with disabilities play baseball — something most kids take for granted — a young man with disabilities of his own served in the honor guard — something most Knights of Columbus probably take for granted.

"He was just beaming," said Deborah Weithofer, who attends Immaculate Heart of Mary Church with Corley.

Corley, who was adopted by Fred and Bea Corley, was especially close to his dad, who for many years was immersed in the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal service organization. The elder Corley was a fourth-degree Knight and served as Grand Knight, and in 1986 the Corley family was named the International Family of the Year for the

Knights of Columbus.

Naturally, the younger Corley wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, so he, too, joined the Knights of Columbus. Like his father, he attained the level of fourth-degree Knight last October, a little over a year after his father's death. Once he became a fourth-degree Knight, he was eligible to serve in the honor guard, and he got that chance Saturday.

Corley wore a tuxedo donated by the wife of a former Knight, as well as regalia once worn by a Knight who lived in the Asheboro area. Weithofer altered the tuxedo for Corley and helped him with the regalia.

"We worked on it to get it ready, so he could be part of the honor guard for the Miracle Field," says Weithofer, whose husband, Frank, also was part of the honor guard.

The local Knights of Columbus have taken good care of Corley, especially since his father died. They provide transportation for him to get to and from meetings, and help him in other ways as well.

"Rusty has stayed very involved in the Knights of Columbus, and they've taken very good care of him, which I think is an honor to my dad," says Corley's sister, Erin Boger of Wallburg. "I think my dad would've been very proud of Rusty on Saturday."

Article reprinted with permission from the Sept. 29 issue of High Point Enterprise.

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Missionary Sister, 52, uses unusual background to help Poorest of the Poor in Haiti

Sr. Irene Clare Duval knew she wanted to be a nun since she was 8 years old, but it wasn't until she was 48 that she joined the Missionaries of the Poor, Sisters. During the four decades in between she served in the U.S. military, went to college and worked for the New York City police department as a drug chemist.

Though she still isn't sure why God told her to wait so long, she knows now that the things she learned while she was waiting help her serve the poor in Haiti better.

"I could ask why for the rest of my life," says Sr. Irene in something in between a Haitian and Brooklyn accent. "But the way I see it, God's timing is perfect and he had me go through what I have for a reason."

"Besides, I figure I'll live until about 112, so I have lots more life to give to God," the 52-year-old says with a broad smile.

Sr. Irene is known now as the dynamic Catholic sister who transformed the lives of hundreds of families in Viloux, a small, remote village in the mountains of southern Haiti. She began important social programs where none existed.

Sr. Irene was born in Haiti but moved with her family to New York when she was in sixth grade. In Haiti she had always attended Catholic school — where she first realized she wanted to be a nun — but in New York her parents could only afford to send her and her siblings to public school.

"I used to get beat up every day at school because I looked and talked different from everyone in my class," Sr. Irene says. "I quickly learned how to deal with bullies — a skill that still serves me well today."

After graduating high school, she considered joining a convent, but she was shy and says "it just didn't feel like the right time."

Instead she joined the U.S. army reserves and

went to Pratt University in Brooklyn to study chemical engineering. After graduating, she made a pact with God, promising to join an order and help the poor after she paid off her student loans — a task that took more than 15 years. In the meantime, she worked for the City of New York's Department of Environmental Protection and then for the New York Police Department's drug testing lab.

"My classmates and coworkers always used to ask why I'd want to give up my great job and become a nun. They asked how I'd have money to live," Sr. Irene recalls. "I just smiled and told them that I had the ultimate sugar daddy — Jesus."

Finally, at age 48, Sr. Irene joined the Missionaries of the Poor Sisters. Just two years later she was sent to Haiti to begin the outreach work she had promised God she would do. And she kept her promise in a big way (see feature on opposite page).

She started a school feeding program that provides meals to 121 children, most of whom were going days without food before she arrived. She opened up the local government school to more children by hiring additional teachers and launched a dispensary, doling out medicine and care to families who had nowhere to turn when they got sick.

Sr. Irene is also planting spiritual seeds. She's begun a new order in the area and already has 53 vocations.

"Everything I've done in my life has come into play in my mission. I'm not working as an engineer, but it's like my studies — it all comes into play," Sr. Irene says. "People are always coming to me with some need. I'm able to help because of the varied experiences I've had. I think that was God's plan."

One thing Sr. Irene has learned over her life is the importance of prayer. She says it is especially helpful when she makes the trip to



Sr. Irene comforts a child being served at her outreach. Her joy and optimism are infectious.

Viloux each week. She takes the *tap-tap* — an overcrowded public bus — then walks the last hour-and-a-half through rocky roads winding up the mountains.

"Prayer is my lifeline," she explains. "Over and over, I've seen how powerful prayer is."

Through her strong faith in God and rich life experiences Sr. Irene works diligently to help Haiti's poor, despite the challenges. But she wouldn't be able to do her important work for Christ without Cross International Catholic Outreach, a U.S.-based relief ministry that funds the bulk of her outreach programs. Without the support Cross provides, Sr. Irene would have never been able to help Viloux or its people, she says.

"Cross is committed to helping strong Catholic missionaries like Sr. Irene," says Jim Cavnar, Cross president. "One of the

most important aspects of our work with the poor is supporting small ministries doing great things, ministries that would not be able to run without the support of our donors. We are thankful for the unique opportunity we have to help these ministries grow."

And that's good news for Sr. Irene, who has finally found her true calling in Haiti.

"God is joy, and where you find joy that's where God wants you to be," Sr. Irene says, smiling from ear to ear. "I'm so happy here — serving the poor of Haiti in God's name."

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Cross International Catholic Outreach and its outreach overseas, use either the enclosed postage-paid brochure or send donations to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00589, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

Cross Recognized, Endorsed by U.S. Catholic Bishops

As Cross International Catholic Outreach has continued to extend the range of its relief work to help the poor overseas, a growing number of Catholic bishops in the United States are taking notice and commending the organization for its efforts.

"We've had many endorsement letters come in the last year or so, and our staff is encouraged by the kind words and well wishes these bishops have shared," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "It motivates us to want to push harder and do even more."

Most Reverend Gerald Barbarito shared: "Seeing Christ in the poor and extending assistance in His name is the very core of what we are about as Church. You are to be commended."

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of was equally enthusiastic, saying: "Your ministry is a fine example of how the Church is called to respond to the needs of the poorest of the poor throughout the world by offering hope in the name of the entire Catholic Community. By standing in solidarity we witness Christ's

love for all, as was expressed in the Holy Father's encyclical, 'Deus Caritas Est.'"

Most Reverend Tod Brown has a similar position, explaining: "As a universal Church, it is our duty to become aware of and support the missionary works of the church. I heartily endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach, its worthwhile mission and its dedicated preachers."

Most Reverend Curtis Gillory, singled out the ministry's good stewardship of funds, saying: "I realize the great assistance that Cross International Catholic Outreach provides for the poor at a very cost effective rate. I want to be supportive of Cross in whatever way we are able to do so."

Cavnar is inspired by these endorsements and the notes of encouragement coming in from other U.S. bishops, but he feels the praise should really be aimed at the thousands of American Catholics who contribute to Cross and make the ministry's work possible.

"None of what we do would be possible without the donations we receive from the men, women and children in parishes from



His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler at a recent meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Keeler is now the official patron of Cross International Catholic Outreach.

across this country. Those gifts, large or small, are what give us the financial power to send the food, dig the wells for water, build the houses, deliver the medicines, open the schools — everything," Cavnar said. "I

say, God bless those benefactors. God bless their generosity and their willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others. Their commitment to helping the poor has made all of this possible."

Catholics Bring Light in Haiti's Darkest Hour

Despite overwhelming adversity, Catholic leaders are making a difference in the lives of Haiti's poor

Two-year-old Kiel's screams cut through the clear morning air, his eyes full of tears and red from crying. His sister Lysins, 5, makes silly faces, hoping for a smile — but gets only more cries.

"He's hungry," says Enita, 7, his other sister, as she rocks him in her arms. "We are all hungry."

Though their mother works as a maid, making the equivalent of \$20 a month, her meager earnings are hardly enough to feed her eight children, especially now that food prices in Haiti have more than doubled in the last year.

Though Haiti has long carried the designation of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, its problems have intensified over the last year. Rising food prices have led to widespread hunger — several news reports told of Haitian's eating "dirt cookies" to survive. In April and mid July protests broke out against the staggering price of staple foods such as rice, some turning violent. Recently, the country was affected by four storms in less than a month, which killed at least 600 people. Widespread flooding from the hurricanes and tropical storms destroyed crops, intensifying the food crisis, and left hundreds of thousands of Haitians without homes.

But in what seems to be Haiti's darkest hour rays of light are shining through. A bevy of social outreach ministries led by strong Catholic missionaries are making a difference.

"Things are better now that sister is here," says 14-year-old Sanette Labossiere, who partakes in a parish-run feeding program at her school in Viloux, a small, remote village in the mountains of southern Haiti. "We eat every day now."

Sr. Irene Clare Duval, part of the Missionaries of the Poor Sisters, provides hot, nutritious meals to 121 children in Viloux through this school feeding program. The outreach is one of several she began for the people in the area after she arrived in Haiti over a year ago.

"I saw what needed to be done, and I did it," Sr. Irene says. "Malnutrition is a big problem here, like in the rest of Haiti."

Cross International Catholic Outreach, an aid organization that ministers to the poor by partnering with Catholic missionaries around the world, helped Sr. Irene start her outreach programs with cash grants raised through U.S. donors.

"Cross gave me the resources I needed to begin my work," she says. "Without their help, I would never have been able to meet the profound needs of these people."

Before Sr. Irene came to this remote village, which is about an hour's drive through rugged terrain from Haiti's main southern town Les Cayes, there were no teachers in the school, no medicine for the sick and most children would go days without a meal.

"These people had no one to help them," says Sr. Irene, who opened a dispensary from the Catholic mission in Viloux and now pays the salaries of three teachers at the local school. "If I don't, who will?"

That question is exactly what led Fr. Marc, a former U.S. Navy chaplain, to give up his career, move to Haiti and start an orphanage for street children in Les Cayes. He now cares for nearly 700 children, providing them with shelter, food and a chance at a new life.

"I sometimes wonder what all these children would do without this ministry," Fr. Marc says. "Anytime I get discouraged I just



In Haiti, many poor children depend on Catholic outreaches for "their daily bread." There is no other place for these families to turn for help.

remember that we are making a difference and that we are fulfilling God's commission to help the poor."

And theirs is help Haiti desperately needs, especially when it comes to health care. Haiti ranks 146th out of 177 countries in the UN's latest Human Development index. Study after study has shown that women and children bear the brunt of the country's health woes.

Haiti's maternal mortality ratio is 630 per 100,000 live births (compared to eight women in 100,000 in the US), and it has the highest rates of mortality for infants and children under 5 in the Americas, according to UNICEF. These death rates are so high because few pregnant women in Haiti have access to medical care while giving birth. They are either too far away from a hospital when they go into labor, or cannot afford it. This is compounded by the fact that there is one obstetrician for every 40,000 people.

Before the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) began working in Jeremie, a large, rural town in Haiti's Grand Anse region, mother and child mortality rates soared. It was common for pregnant women in labor to bleed to death as they were transported in wicker chairs down the mountain on the way to the hospital. The lives of more than 200 women have been saved since HHF bought an ambulance to transport these women — theirs is the only emergency vehicle in the region.

"We're here because of the poor, to bring them what they couldn't otherwise get," says Sister Maryann Berard, a Franciscan nun and the administrator for HHF, a Catholic outreach organization running more than 100 programs to improve the health of Haiti's women and children. "The people who come to us keep us motivated. When you see people healthier and smiling it's worth it."

Though their faith in God and the progress



they see in the people they help keep them going, these Catholic missionaries need help. Without the financial support of American Catholics and U.S.-based ministries they wouldn't have the resources to do their important work.

"Despite the heartaches and tremendous pressures these Catholic missionaries face

every day, they obey God's calling to help the hurting people of Haiti with earnest compassion and without reservation," says Jim Cavnar, president of Cross, which supports Sr. Irene, Fr. Marc and HHF in their work for Christ. "We count it a privilege to be a partner with them in their holy work."

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00589, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more



CNS PHOTO BY TRACY DEER-MIREK, COURTESY SACRED HEART

Centro Aletti artist Maria Secchiaroli and Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik, center, discuss the installation of mosaics in 2008 at Sacred Heart University's Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Fairfield, Conn. At left is artist Svetozar Zivkovic. Father Rupnik and his team of Italian artists with Centro Aletti in Italy installed the artwork during a two-week period in 2008.

A living mosaic

Acclaimed Jesuit artist creates campus chapel mosaic

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (CNS) — In the late summer of 2008 acclaimed Jesuit artist Father Marko I. Rupnik arrived at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield with a team of 15 artists and craftspeople.

When they departed from the campus about two weeks later, they left a work of light, joy and beauty: large-scale mosaics in the university's new Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

The university formally dedicated the chapel this year, with Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport as principal celebrant of the recent rite of dedication.

Four years in the planning, the mosaics are the centerpiece of the \$17 million chapel at the heart of the Sacred Heart campus. Composed of hundreds of thousands of pieces of stone, tile and glass, the mosaics depict the central themes of Christian belief — the Incarnation, Resurrection and Pentecost.

"By devoting such a visible, central location to the chapel, Sacred Heart makes a proud, strong statement about the role of faith in today's campus life, influencing how students learn, how they interact, and how they live on campus and in the world," Anthony Cerna, president of Sacred Heart University, said in an interview last year with the Fairfield County Catholic, Bridgeport's diocesan newspaper.

The chapel itself was designed by Sasaki Associates, an architectural firm that won first place in an international design competition for the

2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

In all, the mosaics cover 2,690 square feet and represent the largest Rupnik installation in the United States.

The Slovenian-born Father Rupnik gained international attention when he was chosen by Pope John Paul II to restore the mosaics in the Redemptoris Mater chapel in the papal household.

Father Rupnik's work can also be seen at the Marian shrines in Lourdes, France, and Fatima, Portugal. His only other American work is in the Knights of Columbus Chapel in the fraternal organization's New Haven headquarters.

Father Rupnik, who has been credited with creating work that bridges Eastern and Western sensibilities, said that such a mosaic "is an act of remembering" that links faith communities of the past and present, and speaks to the power of faith and spirituality across generations.

"It affirms the ability of the senses to discover the spirit and bring you to a higher level toward the mystery of God," he said. "This act of observing and praying unites us with God through the mystery of his birth, sacrifice, suffering and death."

"The church is a living mosaic," concluded Father Rupnik, who unites art and prayer in his work and worship. "I like making things that are beautiful. The church has a special wisdom because Christ is living in history. Beauty can help reveal this truth."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 18, 2009

October 18, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16
- 3) Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Trust in God

Assurance that
God's grace is
poured out

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

There's a proverb I've often heard people cite when they have to confidently make a quick but potentially risky decision: "It's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission." I admit that I've had to fall back on this maxim myself occasionally. It gives me a sense of confidence (or is it bravado?) when the deliberating has been done; it's time for action, and I know that I'll ultimately be accountable for the risk.

In the Gospel, when James and John approached Jesus, making the seemingly outrageous appeal to be seated at his

right and his left hands, their request may have been delivered with a certain amount of bravado (thereby prompting indignation from the other 10 disciples). But Jesus did not dismiss them out of hand. Rather, he took advantage of a prime teaching opportunity.

The confidence to which the psalmist and the author of Hebrews refer is much more than bravado. I am reminded of the origins of the word "confidence" — coming from the Latin "cum fidere" — meaning "with trust." In this sense, one's confidence is placed in God whose throne is grace and whose love is kind and merciful. According to the psalmist, it is precisely when we place our trust in God that God's mercy is upon us.

Jesus qualified James' and John's request by making clear that a share in his glory comes only when one places one's self at the service of others. The world often views servitude as weakness.

But a disciple who places confidence in the Son of God — a "high priest" who has been "tested in every way" and can sympathize with weakness — has the assurance that God's grace is poured out because of trust.

QUESTIONS:

In what area of your life are you most in need of God's mercy and grace right now? What is the greatest obstacle to your being the kind of servant Jesus describes?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11-17

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; **Monday**, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday**, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Callistus I)**, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Romans 3:21-30, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-24

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. John de Brébeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and Companions)**, Romans 4:20-25, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday (St. Anthony Mary Claret)**, Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9.

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Boston priests debut movie-review TV series

Catholic reviews highlight classic, current films

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Everybody's a critic, so the saying goes.

Well, maybe not everybody, but two priests from the Archdiocese of Boston are trying their hand at a Siskel-and-Ebert-style movie-review TV show.

"Spotlight" debuts Oct. 5 on CatholicTV, run by the Boston Archdiocese. The priests, Father Chip Hines and Father Bill Kelly, will review classic films and current fare in theaters.

Father Kelly, who is director of the archdiocesan Office of Clergy Support, likes "arty" films, according to Father Hines, who spoke to Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Wrentham, Mass., where he is pastor of St. Mary Parish.

For his part, Father Hines is a fan of American cinema.

He estimated he goes to the multiplex about once a week on average to take in a film. "I love going to the movies, and renting them too — renting the DVDs and poring over the extras," he said.

He has a subscription with a video mailing service in which the retailer sends him three flicks a week — and he sees all three.

"Some of them I like, some of them I don't, some of them I can't wait for," Father Hines told CNS. "I remember 'Lord of the Rings' (films) were so highly anticipated I couldn't wait to see them."

"I saw recently an independent movie, 'Five Minutes in Heaven' with Liam Neeson," said Father Hines.

"It's about reconciliation, really. A Protestant, played by Neeson, who killed an Irish Catholic in Northern Ireland in the '70s, and trying to reconcile with his brother," he said. "I'm big on reconciliation themes. I'm a priest, I should be."

"I think it's going to become a real fan favorite," said Brian Swift, who produces "Spotlight" for CatholicTV. "We're trying to get some fun programming on the station."



CNS PHOTO BY COURTESY CATHOLICTV

Starting in October, CatholicTV will air a new movie review show starring two Boston priests, Father Bill Kelly, left, and Father Chip Hines. The idea for the show came about when a fellow priest overheard them debating whether a movie star's recent performance was Oscar-worthy.

Young musicians for peace

Vatican hosts concert remembering WWII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican hosted an unusual concert with an eye to encouraging future generations to turn to music rather than violence when faced with conflict between nations.

Titled "Youth Against War," the Oct. 8 concert aimed to promote the practice of dialogue and reciprocal respect as a means of avoiding future wars, said Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The German cardinal said the 2009 date is significant because it marks the 20th anniversary of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall and the 70th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Poland, which sparked World War II.

Young musicians from 10 countries performed music by Felix Mendelssohn and Gustav Mahler at the concert.

The importance of a constant effort by individuals and institutions to promote peace "is exactly what these musicians from all over the world are trying to show with the instruments available to them, that is their music and their enthusiasm," the cardinal said.

The cardinal pointed out that both Mahler, born in 1860 in what is now the Czech Republic, and Mendelssohn, born in Germany, were Jews who later were baptized.

Cardinal Kasper said the conversions need to be seen within their historical context, but people also must recognize that "the Nazis did not take into account these baptisms and so their music was not allowed."

Therefore, he said, "it is important that the music of these musicians is played in this concert for peace."

The initiative was supported by the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations as well as by the German Embassy to Holy See.

The concert, held in the Santa Cecilia Auditorium near St. Peter's Basilica, included performances by German actor Klaus Maria Brandauer and South African mezzo-soprano Michelle Breedt. The orchestra was directed by Jochem Hochstenbach and Wolfgang Gonnenwein. The musicians who performed are part of a German project called InterRegionales JugendsinfonieOrchester.

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Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICEMAGAZINE



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Calling on coordinators



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Michael Clay of the Diocese of Raleigh speaks to Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) coordinators during a workshop at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Oct. 3. The training was to help various parish coordinators implement the third stage of the RCIA process — The Purification and Enlightenment Period. Twenty-six coordinators attended the workshop for rural and small parishes.

Bonds of mercy



COURTESY PHOTO

Past and present House of Mercy residents, volunteers and staff gather for a photo during a reunion Sept. 11. A nonprofit residence in Belmont, House of Mercy provides compassionate, specialized care for low-income persons living with AIDS. Since its founding in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy, more than 260 men and women have made their home there. "The reunion gives past and present staff a time to really enjoy the people we have served and grown to think of as part of the House of Mercy family. It is a bond that can't be put into words," said Shirley Stowe, director of nursing.

Living the Gospel



COURTESY PHOTO

Kathy Motyka, a speaker from RENEW International, conducts a "Why Catholic?" training program at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 29. The topic of the training session was "Living the Gospel Values in the 21st Century," specifically focusing on the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. Joining members of St. Matthew Church were delegates from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, Holy Spirit Church in Denver and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. "Why Catholic?" is an adult faith formation process based on Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Motyka conducted four area workshops for the Diocese of Charlotte. The others were held at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone and St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Golden Girl Scout



COURTESY PHOTO

Lucia Leahy, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School and a member of St. Ann Church Troop 216, recently earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting.

Lucia earned her Gold Award by creating Running My Life, a program that focuses on good health, physical fitness, goal setting and self esteem.

Dore Academy, a K-12 college preparatory school devoted to the education of students with learning disabilities and ADHD, has adopted Running My Life as a club sport that will be offered to fifth- through eighth-grade girls as a regular part of the school program.

When asked about the experience, Lucia responded, "I hope that this program empowers each girl to continue to be physically fit, a leader in the community and ready to accept any challenge the future has in store. I feel proud to have created an effective program that the school can use to help girls grow for years to come."

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Inaugural Crop Walk



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gabriel School in Charlotte participated in the first ever school-wide crop walk Oct. 2.

The 108 fifth-graders led the entire student body in 15 minute walks completed by each successive grade level. Five students led each group with a St. Gabriel Crop Walk banner and "Blisters," the Crop Walk for Hunger mascot.

This inaugural Crop Walk culminated the school's efforts to teach methods of assisting the hungry around the world and in Charlotte and raised \$4,200 in donations for the national Crop Walk organization.

"I am so proud of our students," said Michele Snoke, assistant principal at St. Gabriel School. "They honestly want to give like Jesus did."

Students in service



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grade students from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte volunteer at Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte Sept. 24. They worked with John Klish, media arts teacher at Holy Trinity School, Lauren Pruett, writing teacher at Holy Trinity School, and Linda Cherry, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The students volunteered as part of their eighth-grade service requirements to sort donated clothing while learning about the ministry. Holy Trinity sends a different group to volunteer for a few hours every two weeks throughout the year. In total, the eighth-graders of Holy Trinity have donated well over 700 hours of service to Crisis Assistance Ministry.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Memory of a prayer despite dementia

Growing old is especially hard when we are aware that we are losing even our memories. There is a sense of urgency. We want to pass our memories along to others so that these memories will live on for a while after our own minds have gone dark.

Recently I received a letter from a lady in my parish with progressive dementia. Let's call her Mary.

Every day Mary feels some bit of her mind slipping away. Even though she is still relatively young, she knows that she is losing her memory and it won't be long until she cannot recall even simple things.

Mary's anguish is compounded by the fact that she watched her husband die from Alzheimer's only a few years ago.

Over the years I have received thousands of letters from parishioners and readers. But few letters have touched and encouraged me like the one I received from Mary on the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of our parish. I thought I should share it:

"Dear Father Daly,

"It is the feast of St. John Vianney (our parish patron), and I believe it's more than appropriate to tell you how much I appreciate all that you bring to the parish. At the same time, I want to share with you a prayer/poem that I wrote in my early teens and have used over the years as a Communion offering to our Savior. I do this because many times I have heard you describe your love for the Eucharist with words that articulate my own feelings and belief. Your homily a week or so ago exemplifies this.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



Communion Prayer

I have prepared my heart as a palace

For you, my King, to stay.

And when I receive you, sweet Jesus,

Reign in my heart through the day.

I have prepared you a throne of repentance.

With love I shall make you a crown.

With a heart full of prayer I shall praise you.

Love greater than yours can't be found.

"I pass this on with the hope that you might wish to keep my prayer alive after dementia precludes my ability to remember it. With heartfelt prayers for your intentions,

"Mary."

Mary does not have to worry. Her prayer will live on with me. Maybe others will pick it up too, so that it will become part of the collective memory of the church and be prayed by many minds.

Don't worry, Mary. The memory of your prayer is safe. It lives on already in the mind of one who cannot forget. It lives on in the mind of God, the eternal Word.

October: Month of the Holy Rosary

Power of prayer combats evil

On September 1, 1883, Pope Leo XIII promulgated an encyclical in which he announced that, "the rosary is an effective spiritual weapon against the evils afflicting society." Perhaps he was referring to the historical events 300 years prior that led to this Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In the fall of 1571, a mighty Turkish fleet that was considered the most powerful navy in the world vastly overshadowed its opposing Christian force and endangered the very stability of Europe.

The faithful of Europe answered a call by Pope St. Pius V to pray the rosary for victory. On Oct. 7, 1571, the Lord demonstrated his strength in the midst of human weakness and the Catholic forces triumphed at Lepanto.

This victory was attributed not to human strength, but divine intervention: to faithful Catholics imploring divine assistance and protection through the holy rosary. The victory at the Battle of Lepanto proves what Pope Leo XIII would announce years later that, "the rosary is an effective spiritual weapon against the evils afflicting society."

A more recent pontiff, Pope John Paul II reiterated this crucial message in his encyclical "On the Most Holy Rosary" in 2002. In this letter he wrote that, "The church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the rosary...the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation" (39).

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



If our Holy Father encouraged the faithful recitation of the Rosary to combat the evils that afflict our society today, what battles are particularly threatening?

Without hesitation, we can quickly conclude that what is most vulnerable to attack in our contemporary world is threefold: Christianity, family, and human life. This is summarized in one simple phrase: Christian family life.

The litany of evils that afflict Christian family life include such rampant evils as contraception and abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning, pre-marital cohabitation and divorce, pornography and homosexual unions, infidelity and abuse.

History provides ample evidence for the veracity of the rosary as a means of conquering evil and generating authentic devotion and holiness. To this end, Pope John Paul II made a sincere plea to rediscover the great benefits of praying the rosary, not merely individually, but especially in our families, saying that "The family that prays together stays together."

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Living through job loss

Part one of a three-part series

It's a regular Monday morning, but you do notice that the nice, retired security guard has been replaced by two guerillas. Also, the parking lot seems unusually full this early on a Monday.

Thinking that your favorite security guard must be on vacation, you bound up the steps and notice a cart full of moving boxes as you open the door. Something feels funny, but you can't quite get a grip on why.

You dismiss this oddness as your mind races ahead to the to-do list and the day ahead.

You can't kick the feeling though that something must be going on, because there is no cube talk. That big meeting you were preparing for all weekend...cancelled. Eerie silence seems to be everywhere. Then you see

Professionals In Transition

DAMIEN BIRKEL
GUEST COLUMNIST



the note from your boss: See me as soon as you get in — important!

Before you can even turn on your computer, he is at your door. He doesn't look very happy, and on the way to his office you wonder what you did. "Come in and sit down, while I close the door." Looking straight at you, he mentions that the company has been hit hard by the recession. "A number of positions are

being eliminated and for that reason we are terminating you."

After the word termination, everything goes blank. You hear the words but you can't comprehend them. In one sentence your professional identity is gone. It feels like you have just been hit in the gut with a baseball bat. Next, he tells you that you must exit the building, and a security officer is standing by to escort you to your car.

Like a common criminal you are escorted to your office, grab a few personal things and your keys, and are guided out of the building. Blinded by the sun, you remember your sunglasses are upstairs in your office. You turn back and remember that your ID badge has been disabled.

Finding your car, you fumble for the keys and get in. Thoughts explode... "Now what? How do I tell my family? What about the kids? How will I ever find another job?"

With the unemployment rate at a 26-year high, this unfortunate scene could happen to you. For me, it happened four times. Each time the scenario was different but the emotional and financial impact the same. So where do you go from here?

Damian Birkel is a nationally certified career counselor. On Oct. 27, Birkel will speak on "Finding the Hidden Job Market" at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. For more information, see the Diocesan Planner on page 3.

Judgment must match the speed of news

The birth of a grandchild is a joyous event for the whole family.

Despite my resolve to resist the temptation to go on and on about my own newborn grandchild, the circumstances of her arrival did provoke some thoughts on the stewardship of communication.

She was born in Shanghai, China, where her parents are both educators.

Within 15 minutes of her birth, the news was communicated by cell phone from China to the United States. Photos were sent to all grandparents, siblings and new uncles and aunts.

Compare that to the birth of our first child.

The father-to-be sat in a hospital waiting room when a nurse announced a son might be seen in a half-hour or so.

The new father pumped some quarters into the payphone to pass the news. Two days later, prints of photos taken through the nursery window were sent by mail to grandparents and others.

Days and hours in family communication have become minutes and seconds. The same is true for news of the world.

As the speed of transmission of news increases exponentially, it becomes

more important that judgment increases at the same speed.

Back in the day when fathers sat in hospital waiting rooms, news organizations, both print and broadcast, functioned with an established quality-control process.

A mantra among wire services used to be "get it first and get it right." A reporter would gather information and check facts. The city editor would challenge, pass the story on to the copy desk that checked grammar and style.

The process also provided a filter. Eccentrics who called the city desk with their latest "news" about a UFO on their front lawn were given a polite dismissal.

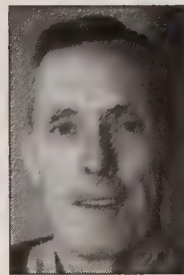
There was also a bar to entry. The cost of a printing plant, of a television station limited the number of people involved.

Today, anyone, for a few hundred dollars, can easily buy a computer, hook up the Internet and promulgate a spaceship from Venus or a conspiracy at the highest level of government.

The stewardship of communication, however, recognizes that information is acted upon sometimes to the

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



detriment of truth, a point not lost on Pope Benedict XVI.

The mass media are not morally "neutral," he wrote in his most recent encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"). They are often subordinated to "economic interests intent on dominating the market" and to attempts to "impose cultural models that serve ideological and political agendas."

Oh, about that temptation I mentioned earlier: Remember a reading in the nuptial Mass which prayed for the blessing to see our children and our children's children? Ever think they would be so darn cute?

Saintly pharmacist-priest shining example, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI held up the "luminous figure" of a 16th-century saint as an example of the missionary spirit every Christian should adopt.

St. John Leonardi, an Italian pharmacist-priest, also stands as an excellent example for clergy in the current Year for Priests, the pope said at his weekly general audience Oct. 7.

Pope Benedict told pilgrims gathered in a sunny St. Peter's Square that it was the evangelical zeal of St. John Leonardi that helped establish the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, the precursor to the current Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The saint "worked with great realism and zeal to promote holiness and the reform of society," the pope said. This dedication led him to help found the church's missionary arm, now the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

St. John Leonardi died in Rome in 1609 as he was ministering to people stricken by an epidemic. He was canonized in 1938 and made the patron saint of pharmacists in 2006.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

This week marks the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Saint John Leonardi, the founder of the Clerks Regular of the Mother of God and a priest whose missionary zeal found expression in the establishment of the congregation of Propaganda Fide. Saint John was born near Lucca, and after training as a pharmacist, became a priest committed to offering "the medicine of God" to the men and women of his time.

At a period of great reform and renewal in the life of the Church, he made the crucified Christ the centre of his preaching and the criterion of all his activity. John understood that all true reform is born of fidelity to Christ and love for the Church. It was love for Christ which inspired his efforts to catechize the young, to promote missionary activity and to renew Christian life and practice. Saint John was convinced that Christ is the true measure of man, and so he worked with great realism and zeal to promote holiness and the reform of society.

During this Year for Priests, may the figure of this great missionary inspire priests and laity alike to "start anew from Christ" and embrace their vocation with passionate enthusiasm.

Love of large families

Hispanic heritage exemplifies Catholic family values

A retired lawyer friend laments that his Catholic education from kindergarten through college never taught him that the Spaniards were the first to plant the Catholic Church on lands now in the United States.

For him, a non-Hispanic, as well as for me, National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated Sept. 15-Oct. 15, is not just about recent immigrants but about the very foundation of the faith in the U.S.

The Spaniards permanently established the church in St. Augustine, in what is now Florida, in 1565, 42 years before the settlement of Jamestown by the English and more than half a century before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.

Juan de Onate's expedition brought Catholicism to New Mexico in 1598. From Florida across the Southeast to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and up the west coast to Washington's Olympic peninsula, Spanish missionaries were the first evangelists.

Yet, Hispanic heritage, specifically the love of large families, also has something to say about the future.

In the next few decades, the world's population will undergo a steep decline. Europe will lose 100 million people in the first half of the 21st century. The mainstream population in the U.S. will also diminish.

So-called underdeveloped nations will also see their numbers go down. Demographers have not found the causes.

For now, the Catholic Church in this country will continue to grow because of the influx of immigrants and the large families of its Hispanic members. A declining population will have devastating economic consequences. That is one reason why immigrants, including the undocumented, are an asset rather than a liability.

It has not been long since having large families was cherished by many cultures in the United States.

Steve Reichert, a friend who served as a Maryknoll lay missionary, comes from a Missouri family of 16 children. I am from a family of 10.

Today, however, many see having children as inconvenient, or worse, as a drag on the "good life." Others fear not being able to support and educate them adequately.

Still others cling to the false vision that an exploding population will overwhelm the resources of the planet.

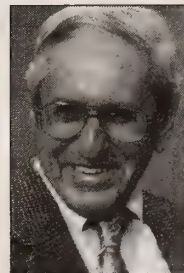
In families like mine and the Reicherts, parents felt that God would provide, and their faith was not misplaced. My parents paid for only one college education, that of one daughter, but nine of their children graduated from college.

We are not exceptional. Uncle Alfonso and Aunt Dora Sandoval had 12 children before he was killed at the age of 45 while working for the Union Pacific Railroad in Wyoming in 1970.

She was left with the seemingly insurmountable burden of feeding and educating them. Charlie, the fifth

Seeking Life

MOISES
SANDOVAL
CNS COLUMNIST



youngest, said: "We had to clean house, put food on the table; it was not easy. Sometimes we had no money."

Only Irene and Katie graduated from college, both with master's degrees in social work. But the others did just fine.

Charlie owns two restaurants in Las Vegas, N.M. Rita, a professional artist, owns with her husband a janitorial service in Santa Fe. John runs two service stations in Albuquerque.

All the others, some of whom graduated only from the eighth grade, became skilled in art, cooking, carpentry, construction and other trades that provide a good living. Dora, now 81, says, "All of my children turned out to be very smart. I can hardly believe it."

Having a large family calls for sacrifice and a generosity of spirit worth recovering, as is the faith of our parents that the job is not theirs alone.

God does provide, often in ways that we would never imagine, if we make the effort and trust him.



CNS PHOTO BY DYLAN MARTINEZ, REUTERS

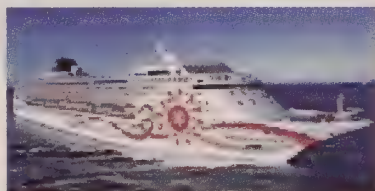
Catholics receive Communion during Mass celebrated outside the earthquake-damaged Puri Dhama Cathedral in Padang, Indonesia, Oct. 4. The cathedral was among the buildings damaged in the Sept. 30 earthquake and aftershocks that rocked the island of Sumatra. The death toll from the quake rose above 1,000 as workers continued to search the rubble for victims.

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For a brochure or info: Cindi Feerick at the diocese -- 704/370-3332 or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

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we take care of the worries - you take care of the fun!**

Catholics respond to international disasters

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — In a week of natural disasters in Asia and the South Pacific, Catholics gathered to pray for the victims, and Catholic aid agencies helped the survivors.

In Indonesia, two earthquakes hit within two days.

In the South Pacific, more than 170 people died after an earthquake triggered tsunamis Sept. 29.

In the Philippines, nearly 300 people died in and around Manila from Typhoon Ketsana and Typhoon Parma left at least 16 people dead.

And in southern India, torrential rains caused floods and mudslides, claiming more than 200 lives and displacing nearly 750,000 people.

Much of the aid in all these countries was being coordinated by Caritas, the Catholic Church's network of charitable aid agencies, although religious orders, lay communities and organizations, and Catholics at the parish level were doing what they could to help the victims.

On Oct. 5, the Indonesian government announced that more than 1,000 people had died in the earthquakes and, in Padang, they abandoned the search for the remaining 1,000 missing. The same day, UNICEF announced it was erecting classroom tents, and more than 70,000 children in Padang returned to class that day.

CRS spokeswoman Laura Sheahan said the agency, part of the Caritas network, was providing emergency shelter for 5,500 families in 23 villages in West Sumatra province, where Padang is located. CRS initially pledged a minimum of \$400,000 in aid to the survivors. It was working with partner agencies to get shelter, hygiene and tool kits to quake victims.

The Indonesian branch of the

Sant'Egidio Community, an international lay Catholic association, was collecting clothing and supplies.

In Samoa, the local branch of Caritas collaborated with the National Disaster Team and the Red Cross to coordinate the tsunami response.

Many residents of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga live along the coasts, and church officials were among those who helped lead residents to higher ground, then assist them with shelter.

In New Zealand, where Samoans form the largest Pacific ethnic group, parishes around the country held prayer services for victims and their families and friends.

A spokeswoman for the New Zealand Catholic bishops' conference said its Caritas agency expected to join the wider Caritas network in Oceania to help provide relief for the tsunami victims, and Caritas officials in Australia said the same.

Luc Picard, CRS country representative in Manila, told Catholic News Service Sept. 28 that Ketsana was being called "the Katrina of the Philippines." CRS and Development and Peace, the Canadian Catholic bishops' international aid agency, were working with Caritas in the Philippines and Vietnam to help victims of the flooding.

The Knights of Columbus also pledged aid to help the typhoon victims.

The Indian government said Oct. 5 that more than 270 people had been killed by flooding in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states.

Jimmy Mathew, Karnataka regional manager for Caritas India, said staffers would work with CRS to devise a joint strategy for flood victims. He said the region had not experienced such flooding for 50 years.



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OR

Saturday, November 21

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The same program is offered both days.

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Perspectives

What it means to be
completely pro-life; The
man who fed the world

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Faith in the line of duty

Seven questions for
Charlotte's chief of
police

BY KATIE MOORE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —
Maintaining a balance between
faith and work can sometimes
be a challenge.

But for Charlotte
Mecklenburg Police Chief
Rodney Monroe, who leads
the largest municipal police
department in the state of
North Carolina, faith is the key
to balancing out the pressures
of work.

Monroe, who has nearly 30
years of experience in the law
enforcement profession, was
appointed police chief of the
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police
Department June 16, 2008.

He is a Catholic convert
and a parishioner at Our Lady
of Consolation Church in

See CHIEF, page 6

An ambassador's plea



PHOTO BY CHRIS VILLAPANDO

Willy Gaa (center), Philippine ambassador to the United States, sits next to his wife, Erlinda (left) at a breakfast meeting Oct. 11. Gaa addressed more than twenty leaders of the Filipino Community of the Carolinas regarding the urgent need for disaster assistance.

Charlotte Catholics act immediately for disaster relief

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Willy
Gaa, Philippine Ambassador
to the United States, flew into
Charlotte Oct. 11 and met with
area Catholics to galvanize aid
efforts for disaster survivors in
the Philippines.

Ambassador Gaa and his
wife Erlinda Concepcion met
with more than 20 leaders
and officers of the Filipino
American Community of the
Carolinas in a Sunday breakfast
meeting at the University
Hilton Hotel.

Ambassador Gaa also

See AMBASSADOR, page 5

Breaking the silence

Group speaks on
abortion from personal
experience

BY HEATHER BELLEMORE
INTERIM EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — In
the bustling Campus Union
building of the University of
North Carolina at Charlotte,
students did a double take
when they saw the tiny size of
unborn model babies.

The group of college
students also saw signs stating
"I regret my abortion," heard
personal testimonies of the
consequences of abortion, and
thumbed through brochures
documenting resources
available for pregnant and
post-abortive women.

See SILENCE, page 9



PHOTO BY JOANITA NELLENBACH

Jean Vizgirda of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, and Gregory Savold and Diane Salkewicz of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville (all shown left to right), renewed their Aug. 22 vows as secular Franciscans at Immaculate Conception Church Oct. 3. Standing with them is the fraternity's formation director, secular Franciscan Patricia Cowan of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard.

In a saint's footsteps Secular Franciscans renew vows

BY JOANITA
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE
— Franciscans throughout
the world observed the Transitus,
St. Francis' passing from the end
of his life in this world to the
beginning of his life in paradise,
at Immaculate Conception
Church in Hendersonville Oct. 3.

This nearly 800-year-old

tradition also marks individual
new beginnings, as Capuchin
Franciscan Father John Salvat
told the Transitus gathering.

"Sisters and brothers in
Christ," said Father Salvat,
"it is customary for us on this
most holy night to renew our
commitment to the Lord."

He continued, "We pray
that like Francis, in being
faithful to the poor and humble

See FRANCISCANS, page 7

Culture Watch

Hawaiians offer pope painting of
St. Damien; Vatican Museums'
astronomy exhibit

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Around the diocese

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Sowers of seed; Korean
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Month of the rosary

Celebrations from
around the diocese;
"Living Rosary"

| PAGE 8

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Miguel Diaz, the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, accompanied by his wife Marian, right, arrives for the canonization Mass of five new saints in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 11. Diaz led the delegation appointed by Obama to represent the United States at the canonization as part of his duties to build bridges between the U.S. administration and the Holy See.

'Obama-era' and the Vatican Ambassador Diaz seeks common ground

ROME (CNS) — The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Diaz, said he is convinced there is wide potential for cooperation between the Vatican and the administration of President Barack Obama, particularly in areas of intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

To kick things off, the U.S. embassy to the Holy See and Caritas Internationalis co-sponsored an international conference in Rome on pediatric HIV/AIDS in mid-October. Diaz said he has already begun exploring additional collaborative possibilities with other Vatican agencies.

"As ambassador, I know there are areas where the Holy See and the United States are not in complete agreement. But I seek to be a bridge-builder, and to underscore that we can work together in multiple areas," Diaz said in an interview with Catholic News Service Oct. 7.

The ambassador said he was heartened when the pope, in a welcoming speech, expressed his confidence that U.S.-Vatican relations would continue to be marked by cooperation in promoting human rights and human dignity.

The Oct. 14-16 conference on pediatric HIV/AIDS featured key Vatican participants as well as medical experts and church workers in the field.

"I think this is precisely an example that shows that, while there may not be total agreement on all points regarding a specific issue, there are possibilities for people of good will to come together for the sake of, in this case, children," Diaz said.

In his speech to the new ambassador, Pope Benedict underlined the church's

teaching on respect for life, from the moment of conception to natural death — a teaching that has relevance in the current debate over health care reform in the United States.

Diaz, a Catholic theologian, said the health care debate touched on very important issues. But he cautioned against assuming that he would be entering into that debate on a diplomatic level, or acting as a spokesperson for the church's positions.

"There are a number of domestic issues that are very important, but I think my role as U.S. ambassador is to represent the United States on the level of policy," Diaz said. "When differences emerge relative to those policies, then it is my role to engage in the kind of bridge-building that is necessary in diplomacy."

Diaz said that as ambassador he naturally would give primary attention to what the Vatican's senior diplomats, like Cardinal Bertone, have to say about policy questions. But he said he would not ignore the voices of other Vatican officials, a few of whom have been sharply critical of the Obama administration.

"I think it's important that we listen to those perspectives," he said.

Asked what has impressed him most during his short time in Rome and at the Vatican, Diaz said he has been touched most by the hospitality he has been shown at every turn.

"I guess I've really experienced the 'catholicity,' to use a theological term, and the good will of the people I've encountered," he said.

USCCB congratulates Obama on Nobel Peace Prize

Says U.S. president 'changed the international conversation'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize Oct. 9.

"As he has graciously said, much of the work of realizing a more peaceful and just world for all persons and nations remains to be done; but the prize was given because, as president of the United States, he has already changed the international conversation," Cardinal George said in a statement released by the USCCB Oct. 12.

"The rich diversity of United States society is now more surely anchored in a national unity that is better able to foster the peace we all are challenged to pursue. Our prayer is that almighty God

will bless the president and his family," he added.

In remarks at the White House the day the prize was announced, Obama said he was "surprised and deeply humbled" by the honor.

"Let me be clear: I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations," he said.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the U.S. president was chosen "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," it said Oct. 9.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat for Women will be offered at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall. The theme for the retreat is "Choices." Consider setting aside some time for personal reflection, prayer and silence. The retreat will conclude with Mass. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. To register, call the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail www.retreat4women@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — "Guiding Youth Toward Making Healthy Choices," a presentation by Susie Vanderlip and the Legacy of Hope will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 21 and 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Vanderlip, a national speaker and writer on prevention, youth and family issues, will convey a message of resiliency and hope in the midst of life's ups and downs. The Tuesday night program will focus on the high school age range and the Wednesday session is geared toward middle school. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Join Fr. Patrick Hoare for *Encyclical Tuesdays* in November from 7-9 p.m. in the education wing at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., as he explores Pope

Benedict's third encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate." This encyclical calls us to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies while linking charity and truth to the pursuit of justice, the common good and authentic human development. Materials will be provided for this series of workshops. To reserve a space, call (704) 535-4197.

CHARLOTTE — The 2009 *Blanket Banquet* will be held on the front steps of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Catholics from various Charlotte area parishes are invited to help keep the homeless warm this winter by contributing extra blankets, sleeping bags, gently used coats and backpacks as well as new undergarments and socks for both men and women. All are invited to come to the fellowship reception to distribute the items and share refreshments with brothers and sisters in need. For more information, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889.

CHARLOTTE — A solemn prayer service including a blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other incurable diseases will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. St. Peregrine has been called the "wonder worker" for his intercession on behalf of those living with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. He is the patron saint of all who are afflicted by cancer, leg ailments, or any incurable diseases, as well as the patron saint of youth at risk. A healing prayer service is offered on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelist Steve Ray will visit St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., for three inspiring presentations Oct. 30-31. The first session, "Steve's Conversion Story," will take place Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.; the second session, "The Life of St. Paul," will be held Oct. 31 at 10 a.m.; and the final session, "The Mystery of the Eucharist," will be held Oct. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Admission for all three sessions is free. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 549-1607.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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INTERIM EDITOR: Heather Bellemore
STAFF WRITER: Katie Moore
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OCTOBER 16, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 43

The Catholic News & Herald, USPS 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Bishops call on Catholics to be main agents of change in Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — African Catholics must become the main forces to ending the continent's wars, promoting reconciliation, fighting corruption, safeguarding the family and protecting Africa's natural resources, said members of the special Synod of Bishops for Africa.

In the first week of the Oct. 4-25 synod, members of the assembly listened to almost 200 speeches on ways the church can be a force for reconciliation, justice and peace on the continent.

The need to overcome lingering ethnic tensions was a predominant theme of the assembly, followed by concern for the family, the importance of protecting the environment, a recognition of the dignity and contributions of women, and the need for dialogue with the continent's Muslim communities.

Bishops denounced the exploitation of tribal differences by politicians and

by multinational corporations seeking control of minerals and oil. But many bishops also urged an examination of conscience by Catholics, saying they have not always acted like members of one family.

Another major theme in synod speeches was the importance of the family in African culture. Bishops warned that families are threatened by wars, disease and ideas about divorce, abortion, sexuality and homosexuality imported by Western media or promoted by Western organizations promising aid in exchange for a forum for spreading their views on family life and sexuality.

Archbishop Marcel Madila Basanguka of Kananga, Congo, told the synod that the traditional family is Africa's main force for peace and reconciliation but it is under almost constant attack.

Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Johannesburg, South Africa, said that Africa's traditional cultural values "are threatened by the new global ethic which aggressively seeks to persuade African governments and communities to accept new and different meanings of the concepts of family, marriage and human sexuality."

On a cultural level, "Africa faces a second wave of colonization, both subtle and ruthless at the same time," he said.

A Tanzanian prelate also asked the bishops to reconsider their often too accepting approach to blessing the marriages of couples who do not belong to the same church.

Bishop Almachius Rweyongeza of Kayunga said that too often the result is family tensions over the religious education of children or the total neglect of religious education in order to keep peace in the family.

"Mixed marriages can easily be like building faith on sand, whereby it

will be hard to produce fruits of love, reconciliation, justice and peace," the bishop said.

As in other parts of the world, the majority of parish members and active participants in Africa are women and their rights and needs also were repeated topics of concern at the synod.

Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu of Lusaka, Zambia, told the synod that "the dignity of women, their giftedness to humanity (and) their potential massively huge contribution to the church" are not recognized, utilized or "sufficiently celebrated."

Several North African bishops urged the synod to replace fear of the Muslim community with real efforts to understand and learn from Islam and to collaborate with Muslim leaders to promote development and peace on the continent.

"We all know that fear is a bad counselor," Bishop Maroun Lahham of Tunis, Tunisia, told the synod.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Health Fair* will take place at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Approximately 20 organizations will be present giving information of the services and resources they have available for the community. There will be free cholesterol screening, glucose screening, blood Pressure / BMI (Body Mass Index). Free teeth screening for children. Presentations on various health topics will be offered in English and Spanish. For more information, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, will host *Father Scott Daniels from Priests for Life* Oct. 24-25. Father Daniels will be the celebrant and homilist for the 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday Masses. He will also speak between the two Sunday Masses (8:45 to 9:45 a.m.) in the Parish Center. A pot luck lunch followed by a talk to the youth and adults concerning chastity and modesty will take place at 11:30 a.m. Sunday. Parishioners are also invited to join Father Daniels for prayer outside the abortion facility at 3220 Latrobe Dr., Charlotte, Oct. 24. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. and return at 1 p.m. For information, contact Deacon Art or Rosemary Kingsley at (828) 713-4341.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A *public rosary crusade* to honor Our Lady of Fatima and pray for our nation will take place every Saturday in October at the corner of Hwy. 68 and Skeet Club Rd. at 11:45 a.m. St. Louis de Montfort said "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down his mercy, and holy mother church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering." Parking is available in the Big Lots parking lot. For more information, contact Ann Keefe at (336) 434-4174.

HIGH POINT — A fall session of *HOSEA* (*Hope of Seeing Everyone Again*) will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9 p.m. beginning Oct. 21 and running for six weeks. If you or someone you

know has been away from the Catholic Church but might want to come back, HOSEA is a small group setting where one can ask questions, get answers and find out what is new since they have been away. For information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097.

GREENSBORO — Laure Hoffman from LifeSteward Ministries will speak on the topic, "What's Going On Outside the Church with Abstinence, Abortion & Crisis Pregnancy," at the Oct. 25th session of Coffee Talk at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *weekend of healing for divorced Catholics* sponsored by St. William Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission will be held Oct. 30-31. The Friday session will take place at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., at 5:45 p.m. and the Saturday session will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, US Hwy. 64 W., Hayesville, at 12 p.m. The program, facilitated by Dave Tilly, will deal with common misconceptions regarding marriage issues and the Catholic Church. For more information, call (828) 837-2000.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., will be holding a free seminar on "How to Find the Hidden Job Market" Oct. 27. There is no charge for the seminar and dinner is included. This outreach effort is designed to meet the needs of the unemployed/under-employed throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 724-0561.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 19 (6 p.m.)
Red Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Oct. 21 (6:30 p.m.)
MACS Circle of Celebration
Cedarwood Country Club, Charlotte

Oct. 22 (7 p.m.)
Room at the Inn banquet
Charlotte Convention Center

Oct. 24 (10 a.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
St. James Church, Concord

A celebration of saints



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Tapestries depicting new saints are displayed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus prayer following a canonization ceremony at the Vatican Oct. 11. Depicted in the tapestries are St. Zygmunt Felinski and St. Damien de Veuster.

Pope canonizes five models of Christian love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling them "shining examples" of Christian love, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed five new saints, including Father Damien de Veuster, the 19th-century Belgian missionary who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii before dying of the disease.

At a Mass Oct. 11 overflowing with pilgrims from around the world, the pope also canonized Sister Jeanne Jugan, a French nun whose Little Sisters of the Poor continue to assist the

elderly in the United States and more than 30 other countries.

The pope pronounced a solemn decree of canonization and proclaimed them models of holiness for the whole church.

The other new saints included a Pole and two Spaniards: St. Zygmunt Felinski, intercessor for all who are persecuted; St. Francisco Coll Guitart, famed for his evangelical preaching; and St. Rafael Arnaiz Baron, a great mystic.

Greetings from Granada

Father Sergio Hernandez, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Granada, Nicaragua (right) stands with students at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Sept. 17. The two parishes have adopted a "sister" relationship and pray for each other daily.

Father Hernandez thanked the students for funds they raised to pay tuition for two students in Nicaragua and the gently used clothes they collected and sent to children at the sister parish (below). He asked Our Lady of Grace School students to continue to keep his parish in their prayers and encouraged them to learn Spanish and visit Nicaragua.



PHOTO BY GARY GELO

Sowers of seed



PHOTO BY CRIS VILLAPANDO

Father Carmen Malacari, pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Denver, gives the keynote speech for the Sowers of Seed conference at his church Oct. 10. Standing to his left is Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez, who served as translator and presenter.

The Sowers of Seed conference is a collaborative catechist formation program organized by the Central Region Leadership Team in the Diocese of Charlotte. The team made several presentations in both English and Spanish to more than 60 participants about the six modules (classes) required to be commissioned as a catechist.

Korean catechists



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Jaehee Lee, pastor of St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte, commissioned 25 of his parishioners as catechists at the church Oct. 11. The ceremony took place after only six weeks of an intensive training program organized by area faith formation leaders and Cris Villapando, diocesan director of programs for faith formation.

This is the first community in the Diocese of Charlotte to produce so many commissioned catechists in such short span of time. This is especially remarkable for this parish that has only 150 registered households.

In order for a catechist to be commissioned, the individual has to complete six modules, which include the call to be a catechist, skills and theory, sacraments, sacred scripture, the creed, and morality. Each module lasts around two hours.

As the only Catholic Church of approximately 13 Korean churches in the area, this community is well aware of its mission to evangelize and catechize.

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FROM THE COVER

Charlotte Catholics respond to Philippine ambassador

AMBASSADOR, from page 1

addressed the 350 participants of the Filipino American Community of the Carolinas during a gala Oct. 11 to describe the dire situation on the ground and the need for help.

The speeches were intended to stir up support for community efforts to assist flood and landslide victims through social outreach groups, church groups and private donors.

The majority of the people who met with Ambassador Gaa were Catholics known for their service work, like Wally Penilla, who coordinates members of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte to serve the homeless shelter of uptown Charlotte.

Several of those present had already initiated fundraising efforts to benefit the disaster survivors in the Philippines. Steve Mirman coordinated a raffle with the Filipino American Community of the Carolinas that raised \$1,000. An informal gathering of Filipinos last week at the Asian Chamber Library raised \$2,000.

"One benefit of community fundraising is zero expense for administration, unlike government funding, which can only do so much," said Cris Villapando, director of programs for faith formation in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"A major distinction I see between calamity recovery in the U.S. and the Philippines is this: the U.S. has insurance companies softening the blow on victims; the majority of people in the Philippines do not have insurance and (are) totally dependent on people's compassion," said Villapando.

Citing the recent comparison of the Typhoon Ketsana to Hurricane Katrina, Villapando pointed out that while rainfall from Katrina in New Orleans was 10 inches, Typhoon Ketsana hit Manila with 18.5 inches of rain in 24 hours.

"The majority of people in the Philippines do not have insurance and (are) totally dependent on people's compassion."

— Cris Villapando

Typhoons Ketsana and Parma struck within days of each other early this month. Ambassador Gaa said the devastation wrought by the back-to-back typhoons displaced 750,000 people and killed more than 500.

He added that the total of 4 million people directly affected by the typhoons does not count "silent" casualties that are now brought about by disease, hunger, and exposure to the elements.

Ambassador Gaa's urgent request for disaster relief to the Charlotteans is the latest challenge in a varied and distinguished diplomatic career.

He served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (AEP) of the Republic of the Philippines to the People's Republic of China from 2003 until 2006.

He has served in various capacities in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Manila, and has represented the Philippines in various United Nations conferences, as well as multilateral and regional meetings, seminars and training.

As a result of the plea delivered by Ambassador Gaa, the more than \$4,000 raised six months ago for a Philippine home-building project is being re-directed to benefit Filipino disaster victims. Golf tournaments are also being planned for disaster aid fundraising.

Strategic planning meetings to be held in October include a plea to the participants of the Rosary Fiesta, an annual celebration attended by the six Charlotte-area Rosary groups, held Oct. 17.



CNS PHOTO BY ERIK DE CASTRO, REUTERS

Residents cross a flooded highway in Rosales, Philippines, Oct. 9. A new wave of flooding, brought on by the second tropical storm to hit the Philippines within 10 days, left thousands of people homeless and at least 18 villages underwater, Catholic Relief Services officials reported.

New flooding in Philippines Catholic Relief Services assessing needs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new wave of flooding, brought on by the second tropical storm to hit the Philippines within 10 days, has left thousands of people homeless and at least 18 villages underwater, Catholic Relief Services officials reported.

Flooding in the provinces of Pangasinan and Benguet, about 120 miles from the capital Manila, began Oct. 8 after one dam collapsed and officials released water to save another dam from being breached as Parma, downgraded to a tropical depression, continued its onslaught of the island nation.

Pat Johns, director of emergency operations for CRS in the Philippines, told Catholic News Service by phone Oct. 9 that the region underwater was already saturated after Typhoon Ketsana swept through the country Sept. 26, dumping more than a month's worth of rain in 12 hours.

Johns was planning to visit the region Oct. 10 with representatives of Caritas in the Philippines to assess the extent of the flooding and determine exactly how many people were forced to flee when waters rose rapidly after the dam along the Agno River failed. CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, is part of the Caritas Internationalis charitable network.

Philippine authorities said 60 percent of Pangasinan was flooded, and more than 1 million people were forced to flee to higher ground. In addition to the displaced people, government emergency management officials reported hundreds of people died in landslides caused by downpours from Parma as the storm lingered off the northeastern coast.

"We've talked to our diocesan counterparts and it sounds like it's pretty devastating," Johns said. "You've got people who are up on their rooftops because of the flooding that has occurred. They're just waiting for people to reach them."

"This is a new area (for flooding)," he added. "This area was not an area we were too worried about until that last 24 hours."

Debbie DeVoe, regional information officer for CRS in Manila, told CNS that flooding reached the second story of buildings in the Urdaneta Diocese. In the nearby Alaminos Diocese, she was aware of at least 100 families who were forced to leave the coastal area.

In the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese, DeVoe reported, at least 18 towns had water that reached the rooftops of homes.

"At least 20 houses, riverside houses, were washed away by water (released) from the San Roque Dam," she said.

Since Ketsana hit the country Sept. 26, CRS and Caritas in the Philippines have aided more than 30,000 people around Manila, she said. "I think we're already inundated by need," she said.



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Seven questions for Charlotte's chief of police

Faith keeps Chief Monroe balanced, grounded

CHIEF, from page 1

Charlotte. In an interview with The Catholic News & Herald he talked about his faith and the role it plays in his profession. His answers have been edited for brevity.

Have you always been Catholic?

I'm a convert. It has been about 15 years. My wife was Catholic. I took the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) classes prior to getting married and our kids were brought up Catholic. I was Baptist.

At some point (while living) in D.C., I had a priest that was one of our (police) chaplains. I just had so much admiration and respect for Father Sal. I opted to learn more about the Catholic faith through him.

How does your faith contribute to your role as Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Chief?

I think it helps to balance things. It helps me know that it is never about me. It is never based on what is in Rodney Monroe's best interest, but more so the people that I serve — the citizens of Charlotte as well as the men and women of the organization. My faith helps keep that grounded in me.

Did you always want to be a police officer?

Since I was a little kid — I never wanted to be the robber, never wanted to be the bad guy. I always wanted to be the good guy, always wanted to be the cop.

Since moving to Charlotte in 2008 you have found your parish home at Our Lady of Consolation Church. What do you like most about your parish community?

In Richmond we belonged to a parish that was very upbeat, very diverse and had Gospel singing. It had to have Gospel singing. Our Lady of Consolation just fit that wonderfully.

During one of his sermons at this year's Revival of the Spirit, guest



COURTESY PHOTO CMPD

For Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Chief Rodney Monroe, faith is the key to balancing out the pressures of work. He is a Catholic convert and a parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

revivalist Father Maurice Nutt mentioned that you were a close friend. How did the two of you become friends?

I met him probably about six years ago. He has been in the law enforcement field. We just hit it off. He's just a great person that really understands some of the workings of law enforcement and somebody that I can relate to quite easily.

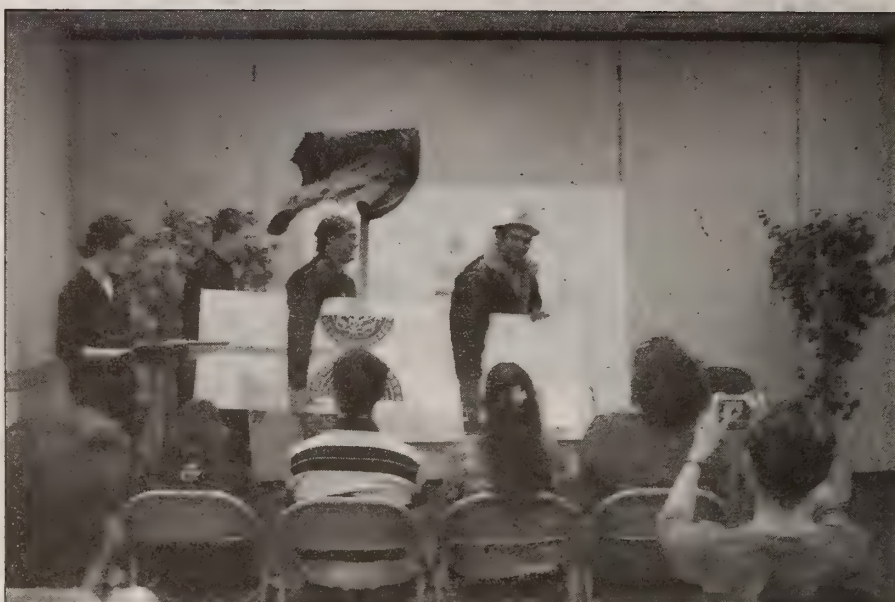
Do you have a spiritual mentor or someone who has influenced you greatly when it comes to your faith?

Father Nutt. He has been somebody that I can just pick up the phone and talk to. He calls me periodically, just to check up on me.

How do you spend your free time?

Golf. That's my biggest release. I can spend hours at a driving range or playing golf. It just gives you time to be by yourself and it takes so much concentration that it takes your mind off of most things.

Saintly skit



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the parish youth group of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte portray St. Vincent at sea with the ship's crew during a skit presented in honor of the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul Sept. 27.

Events began with a procession of a statue of the saint through the church by Knights of Columbus. Later that evening, a small crowd of parishioners gathered in the Msgr. Pharr Activity Center for a pot luck supper followed by a showing of the award-winning movie "Monsieur Vincent."

The youth group skit depicted the highlights of the life of the holy French priest. In just two weeks, members of the youth group wrote the skit and completed casting and rehearsals.

The scene when St. Vincent de Paul was attacked by pirates amused attendees, but also touched them through the portrayal of the heroic and humble life of the great saint. This event was so successful that youth organizer Ruben Tamayo declared: "Next year we are going to do it again but with music, as an opera!"

Confirmation celebration



COURTESY PHOTO

Newly confirmed parishioners smile with Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley Sept. 18. Newly confirmed members in the front row include (from left) Carly Egan, Sierra Franklin, Thomas Graham, Neil Peterson, Amanda Guest, Lucy Henry, Mary Cioffi, Maddy Pipitone, Michaela Pipitone, and Hannah McLeod. In the back row stand (from left) Dennis Chapman, assistant teacher; Betsy McLeod, faith formation coordinator; Augustinian Father John Denny, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church; Bishop Peter J. Jugis; and Vincent Cioffi, teacher.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

FROM THE COVER

Secular Franciscans renew vows of daily conversion

FRANCISCANS, from page 1

like Christ in this life, we may share his glory in the life to come."

Local Capuchins Father Nick Mormando, Father Salvas (known in the parish as Brother John) and Brother Michael Molloy renewed their vows first.

Then the Secular Franciscans of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity renewed their permanent commitments to the Gospel life. It was the first renewal for Diane Salkewicz and Gregory Savold, who had made permanent professions only six weeks before.

The renewal of commitment repeats the promises made at profession, including the declaration "In my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life."

"That was exciting," Savold said. "I've been to the Transitus before, but now I was really a player."

He continued, "It was very emotionally moving and uplifting, especially when Brother John stood up and talked about renewing our commitment."

"It was so emotional," said Salkewicz. "I said it with such joy. I have no more doubts. I don't fear any more. I know this is what I'm called to do."

Discovering a new path

Savold, 77, began his quest to give more of his life to the church after the death of his wife, Joan, several years ago.

When talking with Randy Hair, a member of St. Francis of the Hills, he learned of the Secular Franciscan Order. Savold attended several monthly meetings and decided to begin formation.

Salkewicz, 62, began her journey toward the Secular Franciscan Order nine years ago when she began detaching herself from possessions.

For both Savold and Salkewicz, the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare

were important influences. Savold was impressed that upon hearing St. Francis preach, 18-year old St. Clare left her family of nobility to embrace St. Francis' life of poverty.

"Clare lived a life of caring for others, even before she entered the convent," Salkewicz said. "She was so (far) ahead in her thinking."

The work of St. Francis came alive for both Salkewicz and Savold as they watched the play "Il Poverello," written by Father Salvas and performed for several years at Immaculate Conception Church.

Savold became involved in the annual production and even played Pope Innocent III one year.

He was drawn to St. Francis' decisions, such as his embrace of poverty and care for the poor, and his determination to continue his way of life despite obstacles.

Living radical interior change

"I thought (the Secular Franciscan Order) would be a way to live a more spiritual life," Salkewicz said. "I never knew it was about conversion."

Article seven of the Secular Franciscan Order rule says, in part, "Let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the Gospel itself calls 'conversion.' Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily."

Indeed, Salkewicz has surrendered her time and her will. "I really understand what daily conversion is now," she said.

While in initial formation, she started caring for her mother and her mother-in-law, who had begun to suffer from dementia. Salkewicz fell and sustained a concussion. A detached and torn retina required surgery and months of painful convalescence.

Salkewicz's doctor said that her other retina had begun to tear and she would probably need surgery on Aug. 22, the date of her profession. Distressed, Salkewicz began to pray. Her prayers were joined by members from multiple groups in the Secular Franciscan Order. A re-evaluation

Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK HOGAN

Father Paul Dechant, an oblate of St. Francis de Sales and pastor of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, blessed animals on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4. The ceremony was held outdoors at a statue of Mary on the grounds of Holy Cross Church.

Approximately 125 parishioners brought dogs of all sizes, two horses, and one very small boa constrictor. Father Dechant's dog Shadow exemplified great behavior and remained in the spot designated by the pastor throughout the entire service.

The animals were first blessed as a group, after which they received individual blessings. Father Dechant carried a bowl of pet food with him for the individual blessings.

of Salkewicz's eye determined that she did not need immediate surgery, so she was able to proceed with her formation.

A community of faith

Like other members, Salkewicz participated in monthly fraternity meetings, helped with the fraternity apostolate, prepared for and attended monthly formation sessions required for those not yet "professed," and maintained her prayer life while taking care of her family and work responsibilities.

Profession, a step on the journey, takes place after a recommendation by the formation director and the fraternity council's approval.

For Savold, a former engineer, going through most of formation without knowing the exact profession date was challenging.

"I lived all my life with tic marks on a page," he said. "Target dates were very important."

In their individual journeys, Salkewicz and Savold found the fraternity's support invaluable, "the way all the fraternity members help each other," as Salkewicz said.

"I could not have done it without the help of the fraternity."

When her challenges became especially difficult, she said fellow candidates told her, "We're not going through this without you."

Salkewicz said, "I was sustained by fraternal love and prayer."

That supportive, fraternal relationship is "irreplaceable," said Savold.

Salkewicz also credits her husband's support: "He never let me down. He has been there every step of the way — enthusiastically."

"I want to live this life fully," she said. "It's who I am. It's not a big change for me to be 'professed.' I've been living this life for four years."

Since starting with the Secular Franciscan Order, Savold said his life has simplified.

"If I don't use something, or haven't used it in a year, it's gone. I think twice before I buy," he said.

He reads the Bible more often, said he's "lost" if he doesn't pray the Liturgy of the Hours, and looks at nature with more reverence.

Savold is a member of the Knights of Columbus and volunteers at free clinics and a few other places, but if there's a conflict, such as where to spend time, the Secular Franciscan Order is his choice.

"That's my life," he said. "The Secular Franciscan Order is above and beyond anything else, other than family."

Contact correspondent Joanita Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

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'Living rosary'



COURTESY PHOTO BY GARY GELO

Kable Young, an eighth-grade student at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, carries a cross along a path of students who hold flowers representing the beads of a "Living Rosary" Oct. 7.

The annual event is held to honor Mary during October, the month of the rosary.

Catherine Rusch, a middle school teacher, organized the special prayer service, which was held in the school gym due to inclement weather.

A student from each grade level participated as prayer leaders while the rest of the children recited the joyful mysteries of the rosary.

Many faces, one 'living rosary'



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point formed a "Living Rosary" in the courtyard of the school to celebrate Our Lady of the Rosary, Oct. 7.

Rosary revelations



COURTESY PHOTO

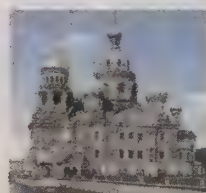
Father Albert Gondek, oblate of St. Francis de Sales and pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, explains the importance of praying the rosary Oct. 11. Faith Formation students from Our Lady of the Rosary Church were captivated during this special bi-lingual Mass. The group enjoyed a luncheon and fellowship afterwards.

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FROM THE COVER

Group speaks on abortion from personal experience

College students gather for pro-life information

SILENCE, from page 1

The event was hosted by the regional Silent No More Awareness group Oct. 14.

"College students are still the number one group for abortions across the country," said Katherine Hearn, a Silent No More regional co-founder. "So it's amazing the number of students stopping by."

"It's a blessing from God," added Kristen Giesler, student at UNC-Charlotte and president of the Students for Life organization that sponsored the table.

Andrea Hines, parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and regional coordinator for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, remarked that those who support pro-life issues on college campuses are not usually so obvious.

The Silent No More group holds gatherings like these in different cities to educate the public about the devastation abortion brings to men, women, and families, said Hines.

"People say thank you for giving your witness," she said. "They don't realize the aftermath of the physical and emotional destruction left by an abortion."

Hines listed infertility, scars, placenta previa, miscarriage, and premature deliveries in future pregnancies as common problems. She also said that alcoholism, drug addiction, promiscuity and higher suicide rates are all part of documented consequences for women who undergo abortions.

"It affects every part of life," said Hines, noting that the list of consequences does not stop with the abortion of a child's life.

Gesturing to the group gathered around the table, Hearn added, "We want to give out information on alternatives to abortion and information leading to healing and reconciliation."

"What we want these students to know," she continued, "is that there is help, hope and a safe place" for women considering abortions.

Hines gave away a button reading "I regret lost fatherhood" to a student who said his girlfriend had an abortion when they were in high school, and included information on Rachel's Vineyard, a program promoting healing after abortion.

"One young man took information for his girlfriend, who thinks she is pregnant," said Hines.

"We've had different people coming up all day," she said. "But reaching even just one person makes it all worth it."



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELLEMORE

Katherine Hearn, co-founder of the Silent No More regional pro-life group, hands out support information to students on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Oct. 14.

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Culture Watch

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SACRED ART



CNS PHOTO BY ANNA WEAVER, HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

Kimi Chun, daughter-in-law of artist Peggy Chun, stands in the Peggy Chun Gallery in Honolulu with one of the late artist's last works, "Father Damien of Molokai," created in collaboration with Catholic school students.

Hawaiians offer pope painting of Damien by paralyzed artist

HONOLULU (CNS) — A large and colorful painting, made by a paralyzed artist working with Catholic school students and depicting Blessed Damien de Veuster, arrived in Rome where students and teachers presented it to the pope at his Oct. 14 general audience.

On Oct. 11 Pope Benedict XVI canonized the Belgian-born missionary priest along with four others.

The 8-foot-by-4-foot "Father Damien of Molokai" was one of the final artistic efforts of Hawaiian painter Peggy Chun, who died last November of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Chun had wanted to do a large painting of Blessed Damien since 2002. But when ALS slowly paralyzed her body, it didn't seem possible.

To see her vision realized, Chun got the help of students at Holy Trinity School in Kuliouou in 2007. "They just got it," said Kimi Chun, Chun's daughter-in-law, of the students. "You could tell this project helped them feel so connected to her."

After her total paralysis, Peggy Chun could only move her eyes and used them to point at different letters and numbers on a "spell board" to form words and sentences. In that way she dictated color formulas to the Holy Trinity youngsters who painted 50,000 half-inch paper squares, mosaic pieces for the portrait.

When most of the pieces were painted, a Polish artist and friend of Chun, Magdalena Hawajska, stepped in, following Chun's carefully detailed instructions.

The piece incorporates Hawajska's restoration of Chun's watercolor painting "Molokai" blended with an interpretation of Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night" that lightens into a blazing sunrise.

Father Damien is depicted holding an outstretched hand, an imprint of Peggy Chun's own hand, and he is surrounded by dozens of other handprints. The entire sky and parts of the Molokai coastline are formed from the students' mosaic pieces.

"It was almost like Peggy went into Madga's body and took it over," Kimi Chun told the Hawaii Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Honolulu Diocese.

"Father Damien of Molokai" was unveiled at the Hawaii state capitol March 14, 2008.

Before she died, Peggy Chun asked that the completed artwork be given to Pope Benedict XVI during Blessed Damien's canonization events in Rome. Kimi Chun said her mother-in-law was known for her generosity and would give away everything from a painting to her own scarf if someone told her they liked it.

"She was such a giver," she said. "It just feels so right for the painting to be given as a gift."

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 25, 2009

October 25, Thirtieth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126:1-6
- 2) Hebrews 5:1-6
- 3) Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Anticipating Advent; A hunger to see the face of Jesus

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Pretty soon retailers will leapfrog over Halloween and Thanksgiving and add the familiar red and green of Christmas decorations. For Catholics, it's just a reminder of the approach of the season of Advent, the season that sharpens our hunger for the coming of our Lord Jesus in the form of a child.

That hunger, for me, is the fascinating part of this weekend's Gospel reading. The blind man Bartimaeus cries out as Jesus passes by and is hushed by those around him, who rebuke him and tell him to be silent. But he persists, so great is his hunger.

Jesus stops and has Bartimaeus brought to him from among the crowd. The blind man had been shouting to him, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Once he is before him, Jesus asks this

man a rather remarkable question: "What do you want for me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus' reply is just as remarkable: "Master, I want to see." He didn't ask for sight simply to make his life better, but in order to see the one he had already identified as the son of David, correctly describing Jesus' lineage as a proof that he was the Messiah. Jesus tells him in response, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."

Scripture tells us Bartimaeus immediately "received his sight and followed him on the way."

Advent is a time of hunger and a time to renew and re-form our faith with our sense of Jesus present in his world. Thousands in my own diocese are beginning the "Why Catholic?" program with the first six-week season corresponding, roughly, with the season of Advent. They will seek the face of Jesus in the Scriptures and teachings of the church, through the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in the workings of God in their own lives and the lives of the body of Christ represented in the people in their small study groups.

Others will seek the face of Jesus through serving the poor, or by intensifying their love for their spouses and children, or by increasing their time in Scripture study and prayer.

May we all take courage from the example of Bartimaeus, remembering the generous response of Jesus to all those who seek him in faith.

Questions:

Have you made a plan for spiritual renewal for Advent? If you haven't, what local programs of study, service or worship might help you in personally seeking the face of Jesus?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-24

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday** (St. John de Brebeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and Companions), Romans 4:20-25, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday** (St. Paul of the Cross), Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday** (St. John of Capistrano), Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday** (St. Anthony Mary Claret), Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25-31

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday**, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Romans 8:18-21; **Wednesday** (Saints Simon and Jude), Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; **Thursday**, Romans 8:31-39, Luke 13:31-35; **Friday**, Romans 9:1-5, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

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THE
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NEWS HERALD

U.S. geneticists named to Vatican sciences academy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named two prominent U.S. geneticists as members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Edward De Robertis, a professor of biological chemistry at the school of medicine of the University of California at Los Angeles, are the newly appointed members.

The Vatican announced their appointments to the pontifical academy Oct. 10.

Dr. Francis Collins

Collins, 59, is the former director of the NIH National Human Genome Research Institute, which made a complete map of the human genome under his leadership.

Collins' research led to the discoveries of a series of important genes, including the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis, and he also isolated genes linked to other diseases, the Vatican said.

Collins, who had been regularly invited to speak at conferences of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, has long urged scientists not to divorce their work from their spirituality.

He won a Christopher Award in 2007 for his book, "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief."

After leaving the genome project in

August 2008, Collins, who has said he became a Christian at age 27, founded the BioLogos Foundation in Washington, which says in its mission statement: "We believe that faith and science both lead to truth about God and creation."

Dr. Edward De Robertis

De Robertis, 62, isolated the first gene responsible for controlling the development of vertebrates while he was a professor of cellular biology at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

The Vatican said De Robertis' research in development-controlling genes in the embryos of vertebrates led to the discovery that the molecular mechanisms for embryonic patterning are similar in all animal embryos.

"Some fundamental tool kit creates the form and patterning of the embryo across the animal kingdom," De Robertis has explained.

The Vatican said his discoveries have spearheaded the creation of a new scientific field called evolutionary developmental biology. So-called "evo-devo" compares the developmental processes of different plants and animals so the ancestral relationship between organisms can be determined.

The Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which includes several Nobel Prize winners among its members, advises the Vatican on scientific issues.

SCIENTIFICALLY SAVVY



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

This 16th-century illustration by Gregor Reisch, showing a teacher holding an armillary sphere used to point to objects visible in the sky, is displayed in the "Astrum 2009" exhibit at the Vatican Museums Oct. 13.

Italy's celestial studies stars in Vatican Museums' exhibit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and Italian observatories have teamed up to display for the first time numerous precious instruments and books documenting the birth and development of stargazing in Italy.

The Vatican Observatory, the Italian National Institute of Astrophysics and the Vatican Museums have pooled their collections of antique telescopes, astrolabes, celestial globes and manuscripts, such as Galileo Galilei's original handwritten notes detailing his observations of the moon. Many of the 130 items in the exhibit have never been displayed publicly.

The exhibit, called "Astrum 2009," runs at the Vatican Museums from Oct. 16 to Jan. 16, 2010, and commemorates the International Year of Astronomy.

The United Nations declared the special year to mark the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope to observe the cosmos.

The exhibit's curator, Ileana Chinnici, told journalists during a Vatican press conference Oct. 13 that Italy's unique patrimony of astronomical instruments is the richest in the world.

Popes and the divided Italian states all supported their own observatories and amassed a large number of historical instruments and valuable documentation, she said.

Some of the unique and valuable objects on display include Galileo's handwritten notes and his publication "Starry Messenger" from 1610, both of which detailed how he perfected the telescope to magnify distant objects 30 times the size they appear to the naked eye.

There is also a replica of one of Galileo's telescopes created by Massachusetts-based craftspeople Jim and Rhonda Morris. The original is in the

Institute and Museum of the History of Science in Florence, Italy.

Also on display is the arithmometer, one of the first commercial calculating machines. Created in 1882, it helped scientists do complex additions, subtractions, multiplications and divisions as well as extract square roots.

A few sections of the 130-piece exhibit are dedicated to the Vatican's history of astronomical research, including its participation in the 19th-century international "Carte du Ciel" (Map of Heaven) project to catalog and make a map of the stars.

Also on display for the first time are photographs of a papal expedition to Russia in 1887 to witness and document a total solar eclipse. Three Italian priests made the trip, which proved unsuccessful due to poor weather and viewing conditions.

Missing from the exhibit is any mention of the church's troubled history and dealings with Galileo.

The Italian scientist was condemned for suspected heresy in 1633 for maintaining that the earth revolved around the sun. He was "rehabilitated" in 1992 by a special Vatican commission established by Pope John Paul II.

The church has made significant overtures in recent decades to show that faith and science do not conflict.

Galileo opened up a brand new way of doing science, which wasn't accepted immediately, said Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, president of the commission governing Vatican City in a written introduction to the exhibit's catalog.

These groundbreaking scientific discoveries help people better understand God's creation, he wrote, and the exhibit shows how science "is an inescapable part" of the human spirit and the whole human experience.

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1924 - 2009 Benedictine Father John A. Oetgen



*Belmont Abbey monk
and priest remembered
for humor, intellect*

BELMONT — Benedictine Father John Oetgen, a monk and priest of Belmont Abbey, died peacefully Oct. 10.

He was in the sixty-fifth year of his monastic profession, and the fifty-eighth year of his priestly ministry. He was born in Savannah, Ga., on Aug. 6, 1924, the son of H. Glenn Oetgen and Helen McCormick Oetgen, and was given the name Anthony. He grew up in Sacred Heart Parish and attended Benedictine Military School in Savannah, both of which were staffed at the time by the monks of Belmont Abbey.

From there, it was a natural transition to Belmont Abbey Junior College. In the course of his college studies, he was admitted to the novitiate for Belmont Abbey, receiving the name John. He made his novitiate at St. Vincent Archabbey and celebrated his first profession of vows in 1944. He was solemnly professed in 1947 and ordained to the priesthood in his home parish of Sacred Heart in 1951.

His education included studies at the Belmont Abbey Seminary with further studies in Rome, St. Benet's Hall at Oxford University and the University of North Carolina. In recognition of his academic and scholarly interests, he was named a Lifetime Fellow of the American Benedictine Academy in 1998.

Father Oetgen was tall, in both stature and importance at Belmont Abbey. He was esteemed and admired by his confreres, colleagues and students alike for his lively sense of humor, keen intellect and broad range of interests.

He served as a trusted and beloved mentor to generations of Abbey students. In the monastic community he was consistently elected to the Senior Council, and represented the community as delegate to numerous sessions of the General Chapter.

In the college, he is perhaps most affectionately remembered for initiating countless students into the richness of Shakespeare and the unique world of Southern Literature, and for serving as director, performer and patron to the Abbey Players.

In addition to teaching English and

Speech, Father Oetgen was chaplain at St. Leo School, 1951-1952, and assistant dean of students, 1955-1956. He completed several terms on the board of trustees, and led the college as its president, 1960-1964. In recognition of his significant achievements, Belmont Abbey College awarded Father Oetgen the Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 2006.

One of Father Oetgen's most important gifts to Belmont Abbey was a love of beauty. His affinity for the beauty of Benedictine monastic life and literature overflowed in his painting, gardening and friendships. Countless trees and the colorful flowers of his garden will keep him in mind for years to come.

Father Oetgen is survived by the monks of Belmont Abbey, by his sister, Sister Pauline Oetgen, C.S.J. and by his niece and three nephews. His body was welcomed home to the abbey basilica Oct. 12. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated with the monastic community, the Most Reverend Peter Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, the Most Reverend William Curlin, Bishop Emeritus of Charlotte, priests of the diocese, the Sisters of Mercy, the Belmont Abbey College Community, and numerous alumni and friends. His body now rests with the monks in the abbey cemetery.

Addressing Belmont Abbey College's Class of '06 at their commencement exercises, Father Oetgen challenged them not only to seek excellence and satisfaction in their lives and careers, but also to want to be holy, to be saints. He told them, "Our wanting must be serious enough to understand that drawing close to Christ means drawing close, embracing the individual cross of our life." Always the consummate teacher, Father Oetgen, in the final months of his illness, fulfilled by example the words of his instruction.

The monks of Belmont Abbey said, "We trust that, having shared by patience in the sufferings of Christ, Father Oetgen now shares also in his glory, and we commend our dear confrere to you for the customary suffrages for the deceased monks of our congregation."

CROP Walk with class



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-grade students, parents and teachers of St. Matthew School in Charlotte smile during their own CROP Walk on Sept. 30. In addition to raising money, students fasted and offered up their snacks as a sacrifice for all the people in the community who often go hungry.

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Building community

New Oktoberfest brings together Hendersonville parish

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — A swirl of music, games, and dancing signaled the arrival of the first annual Oktoberfest Carnival of Immaculata School in Hendersonville Oct. 9. The fun-filled event brought together the parish and school community and filled the auditorium and parking lot.

Tammy McCurdy, PTO president and coordinator of the event, helped plan the inaugural fall festival around the Hendersonville Apple Festival, held at the beginning of the school year.

"We wanted to do a carnival to welcome the kids back into school and (create) something that would be fun for everyone (and) help build the relationship between the parish and school," said McCurdy.

The aroma of traditional German bratwurst, sauerkraut and potato salad set the Oktoberfest mood. Children who attended enjoyed a carnival menu of cotton candy, popcorn and hot dogs. Immaculata School was transformed into an Oktoberfest celebration with a full array of games and activities both indoors and out, including a cake walk, sale items for all ages, and music, food and fun provided by the school PTO.

As the school erupted with fun and laughter, parishioners, school children, parents, friends and family enjoyed the atmosphere and became one community, just as organizers had hoped.



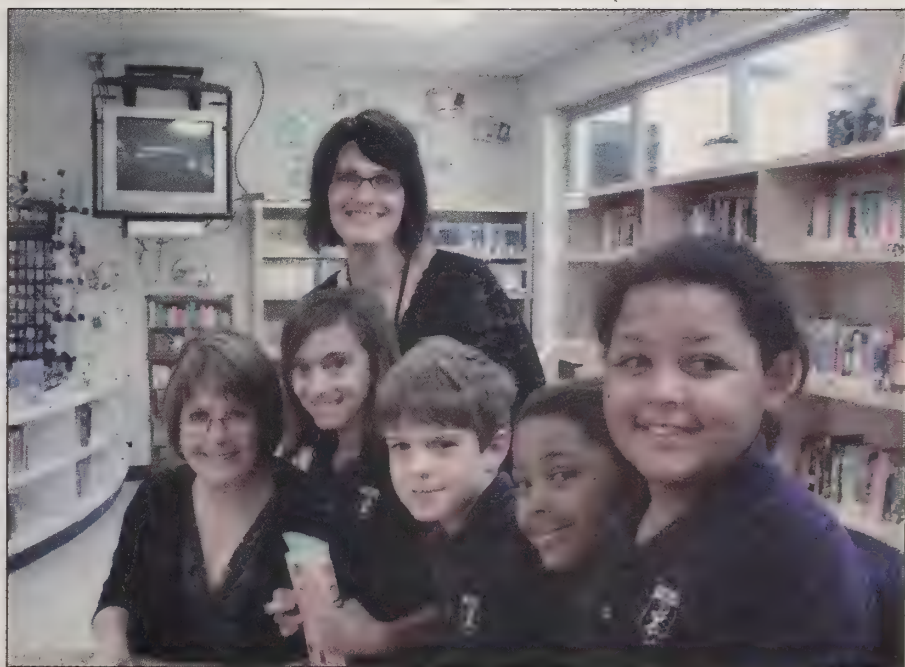
Proceeds from the event will be used to add new technology to the classrooms with the PTO hoping to raise enough funds to buy two Smart Boards. These boards will provide a white board with projector for use in the classrooms. The new equipment will enable presentations to be given to children without moving equipment between classrooms, freeing up time to focus on the lessons.

"With everything usually coming at the end of the school year, we felt this fundraiser would be less stressful for the parents and exciting and fun for the kids as well," noted McCurdy.

"The whole PTO and the teachers have come together," she continued. "It has been a team effort!"

The team's work was well rewarded with the large turnout for a night of fun for everyone with good food and wonderful fellowship.

Rapt readers



COURTESY PHOTO

Award-winning N.C. author Frances O'Roark Dowell (seated left) autographs books for students at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Oct. 1. Pictured (from left) are fourth-grader Jenny Iruela, third-grader Andrew English, and fourth-graders Jillian and Emma Heard. Dowell's book, "Chicken Boy," is on the list for the 2009 N.C. Battle of the Books, a statewide reading competition. The author spoke with third- through eighth-grade students about the writing process and then discussed literature over lunch with the school's Battle of the Books team.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The man who fed the world

Norman Borlaug, who died at age 95 in mid-September, has been hailed in print since his death as "the man who fed the world," "the man who defused the 'population bomb'" and "arguably, the greatest American of the 20th century."

Borlaug is said to have saved more lives than anyone who has ever lived.

He grew up on a farm and received his early education in a one-room schoolhouse in Cresco, Iowa. As a boy, he wondered why plants and grass grew better in some places than others. His boyhood curiosity led him eventually to pursue graduate studies in plant science and a career that helped teach the world how to feed itself.

Borlaug's contribution came by way of the power of intellect. He developed disease-resistant varieties of wheat and was responsible for major productivity advances in plant breeding. His work led to stunning increases in food production in Latin America and Asia, thus averting mass famines in the 1960s and 1970s. Because of him, food-deficit nations like Mexico and India became self-sufficient in producing cereal grains.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. In conferring that award, the Nobel committee expressed the hope that the provision of bread for a hungry world would also help to assure world peace.

To the extent that we live in a world that is broken by unshared bread, the connection between bread and peace was surely worthy of recognition. That link needs to be remembered now by scientists and statesmen alike, as does the link between the life of the mind and the solution of other major problems confronting humankind.

Tomorrow's research scientists and political leaders are sitting in elementary school classrooms today. Someone has to encourage them to cultivate a sense of

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
— CNS COLUMNIST



wonder, apply themselves faithfully to their schoolwork and commit themselves to the task of engaging their intellects with the major problems of their times.

I'd love to see "borlaug" become a verb that means connecting intellectual curiosity with a commitment to the common good. If we're lucky, young people will "borlaug" their way to academic achievement. "Borlauging" might come to mean an exercise of creative imagination in purposeful engagement with challenging problems.

There will, I hope, be research centers and institutes around the country named after him, perhaps at the University of Minnesota where he studied or at Texas A&M University, where he worked until rather recently.

I hope even more that Borlaug's spirit of inquiry and service will find its way into the psyche of many young Americans, the area between their brain and heart. From there, great things can emerge that will provide a lasting tribute to this great man.

We literally cannot afford to forget Norman Borlaug. And we have to find a way to motivate our young to want to be like him.

Jesuit Father Byron is university professor of business and society at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia. Contact him at wbyron@sju.edu.

What it means to be completely pro-life

What does it mean to be pro-life?

This is an essential question for anyone seeking to live a genuinely Catholic Christian experience. And there is no better time to ask it than during October, Respect Life Month.

Certainly, being pro-life means striving for the protection of every unborn human being. In the United States, where more than 3,500 unborn babies are murdered every single day, one cannot possibly claim to be pro-life without earnestly praying and working for an end to abortion. Nearly every Catholic knows this.

But there is much more to being pro-life.

Catholic social teaching insists that faithful daughters and sons of the church must also deeply concern themselves with humanity's many miseries and the myriad threats to life after birth.

The world's bishops at the Second Vatican Council solemnly declared: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ."

The church's social doctrine challenges us to see the big picture of human suffering and to do everything possible to alleviate it.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus warns us that our very salvation depends on how well we respond to those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick and imprisoned.

Jesus didn't say feeding the hungry is more important than welcoming the stranger, or that giving drink to the thirsty is greater than caring for the sick.

No, instead our Lord commanded us to compassionately respond to human suffering in all the ways it presents itself. But many Catholics concern themselves only with one life issue, while largely ignoring the rest. They claim their cause trumps all the rest.

Some work solely to end abortion,

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
— CNS COLUMNIST



while others strive to end war. There are those devoted to abolishing capital punishment and those laboring to end hunger. Being committed to any one of these issues, while commendable to a point, is simply not enough.

This narrow perspective is only partially pro-life; it falls far short of a comprehensive respect for life.

In the encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), Pope John Paul II wrote, "As disciples of Jesus, we are called to become neighbors to everyone (see Lk 10:29-37) and to show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone and most in need. In helping the hungry, the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned — as well as the child in the womb and the old person who is suffering or near death — we have the opportunity to serve Jesus. ..."

"Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation. ..."

"We need then to 'show care' for all life and for the life of everyone" (No. 87).

Not just the unborn, not just the victims of war, not just the hungry, not just the poor, not just the sick, not just the undocumented, not just the sweatshop workers, not just the death-row inmates and not just the homeless, but every suffering human being deserves our help.

This is what it means to be completely pro-life!

Concerning climate change

I was deeply disappointed in Father Matthew Buettner's seeming dismissal of the ecological crisis ("Birth Control could help combat climate change?" on page 14 of the Oct. 2 issue). I would invite Father Buettner and every Catholic to read Pope John Paul II's writings on the environment, especially "The Ecological Crisis." Many American

bishops collaborated on another timely document entitled "The Columbia River." The Vatican takes a strong stance on the plight of the environment and I believe we all have a duty to do the same!

— Jacqueline Messick
Greensboro, NC

Letter to the Editor

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Pondering the meaning of hospitality

"Hospitality is the act of the recklessly generous heart."

This great quote from Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister is my meditation for the week. Every word seems like a little gift to be unwrapped, and each word has a tag with my name on it.

Hospitality, in the narrow sense of welcoming people into my home, has sometimes been challenging. Oh, I love to entertain, have a friend drop by for coffee or spend the night.

But I also jealously guard my privacy and my quiet time. I've never been tempted, for instance, to host a foreign student for the year. I like my boundaries.

In the first days of my marriage, my tiny newlywed home in Anchorage seemed to be a central way station as friends journeyed in and out of Alaska.

We were all young and poor, adventuresome and fairly itinerant. Initially, it was great fun with dear friends. Yet the stream of visitors became overwhelming, and I chafed at the sleeping bags piled on the floor and the late-night calls from the airport.

I silently and very guiltily began

to subscribe to the adage common to Alaskans: "Fish and guests go bad in three days." No doubt our relatives thought the same thing as my family arrived with our phalanx of suitcases.

Now my friends are all settled and their visits are indeed rare and worth savoring. And as my kids grew older, those summer trips grew fewer — and shorter. Our parents grew too old to visit and other relatives adopted a "been there, done that" attitude toward the big-ticket price of another foray into the 49th state. When a relative arrives now, it's an uncommon treat.

Of course, let's expand hospitality: Hospitality clearly does not just involve our homes. I cultivate hospitality at church, at work or even at the supermarket. I extend hospitality when I comfort the sick, reach out to the frightened, visit the prisoner, make my child feel loved.

But then there's that word "recklessly." According to what Sister Joan posted, hospitality is the act of a recklessly generous heart.

When I've questioned my generosity, whether with my time, my checkbook or

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



my home, I don't think "reckless" was ever part of the test.

But, honestly, wasn't that the kind of generosity Jesus had? The image of Christ to which I often return is of Jesus making the decision to go up to Jerusalem a final time even though he knew the danger that awaited him. Now that's reckless!

And then there's that word "heart." Who had more heart than Jesus, giving when it seemed crazy to give?

The words in Sister Joan's post push up against my boundaries, my orderliness, my caution. They're good fodder for prayer this week.

Medieval abbot example of love, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The ability of a 12th-century French abbot to unite love of God and neighbor with pragmatism in everyday life is a worthy quality for Christians today to strive for, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 14, Pope Benedict once again employed the example of an exceptional figure from the past to illustrate universal traits that contemporary Christians should cultivate.

Peter the Venerable was born around 1094 in Auvergne, France, and died in his abbey on Christmas Day, 1156.

"He's a model for both monks and Christians of our time, which is characterized by frenetic rhythms and examples of intolerance, incommunicability, division and conflict," the pope said.

The pope said Peter was open not only to his own neighbors but also to other faiths, especially Judaism and Islam, and he stood out from his contemporaries by studying Islam from original sources and commissioning their translation.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Our catechesis today considers an outstanding churchman of the early twelfth century, Peter the Venerable, abbot of Cluny. Despite his pressing responsibilities and frequent travels in the service of the Church, Peter maintained a contemplative spirit, deep inner tranquility, rigorous asceticism and a capacity for warm friendships. His ability to combine love of God with sincere love of neighbor found expression in a lively sense of the Church. He urged all the members of Christ's Body to be concerned for the trials and difficulties of the universal Church, and he expressed an interest in those outside the Church, specifically Jews and Muslims, in ways which were remarkable for his day.

Prayer stood at the heart of Peter's theology and spirituality, which were nourished by the monastic liturgy and meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life. At Cluny he introduced the feast of the Transfiguration and composed its prayers, centered on the contemplation of the glorious face of Christ.

By his ability to combine prayer and contemplation with love of neighbor and a commitment to the renewal of society, Peter the Venerable reflected the Benedictine ideal and serves as an example to Christians today in their efforts to live holy and integrated lives in our often stressful society.

Surfing the emotional wave

Part two of a three-part series

For me, the hardest part of unemployment was the runaway emotional roller coaster. The highs were much higher and the lows much lower. It felt like I had been swamped by an emotional wave. Here is how the emotional wave works:

First, you get the news that you've been terminated. The sudden change in your life casts you adrift in a turbulent ocean.

As you tumble from wave to wave, you experience shock and denial, fear and panic, anger, bargaining, depression, and temporary acceptance.

Just when you think you've reached the trough of the wave, you begin to climb back up to the crest.

The cycle continues until you learn to positively channel, rather than avoid, your real feelings.

Once you're able to confront and manage your emotional wave you can navigate your way through the stormy waters and eventually safely reach the shore.

Along with emotional issues, you are likely to encounter physical and behavioral symptoms of job-loss trauma. For example, many people report eating and sleeping disorders, forgetfulness, aching limbs, headaches, repetitive dreams, endless chattering, irritability, and hyperactivity while unemployed.

There's often some interplay between the emotional, physical, and behavioral symptoms of job loss. For example, recurring nightmares could heighten depression, or fear and panic might cause headaches or perspiring. While the actual physical and behavioral manifestations of unemployment vary widely from one person to another, the emotional wave typically unfolds in the context of at least some of these symptoms.

Physical symptoms include loss of appetite, forgetfulness, problems falling asleep, lack of concentration, anxiety attacks and migraine headaches. Behavioral symptoms include dizziness, heart palpitations, aching limbs, repetitive dreams, irritability and hyperactivity.

Once you understand the emotional wave you can predict how it might shape the weeks ahead of you and prepare yourself to deal effectively with each emotional stage, as you encounter it.

The first time I lost my job, I thought I could do it on my own. The second time, I mailed out 500 resumes, got 50 responses and five interviews. So far so good.

Unfortunately, none of the five interviews panned out. Guess what? I didn't get a job and had to endure the shame, humiliation and anger that arrives with each rejection letter.

I was tapped out. With no savings

Professionals In Transition

DAMIEN
BIRKEL
GUEST COLUMNIST



and time running out, I went to Mass. I can remember looking at the tabernacle and praying: "Dear Lord, I have been out here trying to find a job alone and without your help. I'm tired Lord and my world is caving in. If you will help me Lord, I promise to never forget what it was like to be unemployed."

It didn't happen all at once, and there was no thunder or lightning moment. Instead, small things began to happen. Little by little, I realized that it was time to take my hands off the steering wheel of life, and let God do the driving.

Damien Birkel is a nationally Certified Career Counselor. On Oct. 27, Birkel will speak "Finding the Hidden Job Market" at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. For more information, see the Diocesan Planner on page 3.

Archbishop Chaput rejects cardinal's upbeat appraisal of Obama speech

ROME (CNS)—Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver has taken issue with a retired Vatican official's positive assessment of President Barack Obama's speech last May at the University of Notre Dame.

In an essay published by the Italian newspaper *Il Foglio* Oct. 6, Archbishop Chaput said Swiss Cardinal Georges Cottier, the papal theologian under Pope John Paul II, had been overly generous in his appraisal of the president's words.

In his speech, Obama expressed commitment to reducing the number of abortions and guaranteeing conscientious objection rights for health workers. Cardinal Cottier said in July that the president had moved in the direction of finding "common ground" with the church, and that "his words go in the direction of diminishing the evil."

Archbishop Chaput, noting that many U.S. bishops had objected to the president's appearance at the Indiana university, suggested that Cardinal Cottier might have deferred to the judgment of local pastors.

"Regrettably and unintentionally, Cardinal Cottier's articulate essay undervalues the gravity of what happened at Notre Dame. It also overvalues the consonance of President Obama's

thinking with Catholic teaching," Archbishop Chaput wrote. The English text of his article was published on the Web site of *Il Foglio*.

Archbishop Chaput said Obama's views on vital bioethical issues, including abortion, "differ sharply from Catholic teaching." While many have pointed to Obama's sympathy to the church's social teaching, the archbishop said, "there is no 'social justice' if the youngest and weakest among us can be legally killed."

He said the strong opposition by many U.S. bishops to Notre Dame's hosting and honoring the president was based not on partisan politics but on "serious issues of Catholic belief, identity and witness — triggered by Mr. Obama's views — which Cardinal Cottier, writing from outside the American context, may have misunderstood."

Archbishop Chaput added that the president's search for "common ground" with the church, praised by Cardinal Cottier, is not necessarily a good thing.

"So-called 'common ground' abortion policies may actually attack the common good because they imply a false unity," he said. "The common good is never served by tolerance for killing the weak — beginning with the unborn."

Archbishop Chaput praises Belmont Abbey College for defending 'right to be Catholic'

BELMONT (CNA). — Catholic lay leadership is essential in public life and can accomplish much that Catholic bishops cannot do, Archbishop of Denver Charles J. Chaput has said. His Thursday speech at an awards banquet praised Belmont Abbey College for standing up for its "right to be Catholic," while also warning that evil will certainly triumph if it is left unopposed.

"There may be many times when a bishop or group of bishops needs to speak out publicly about the moral consequences of a public issue. But the main form of Catholic leadership in wider society — in the nation's political, economic and social life — needs to be done by you, the Catholic lay faithful," he said.

The archbishop's remarks came in his acceptance speech for the Envoy of the Year Award bestowed by Belmont Abbey College's Envoy Institute.

Archbishop Chaput emphasized the need to form Catholic lay leaders who know and love the teachings of the church and faithfully live them out.

"But once those lay leaders exist, clergy cannot and should not interfere with the leadership that rightly belongs, by baptism, to their vocation as lay apostles," he explained.

The archbishop's remarks touched upon topics such as the nature of the state, the nature of Catholics' Christian faith and the nature of the lay vocation.

He also reflected on patriotism, calling it a virtue for Christians.

"Love for the best qualities in our homeland is a noble thing. This is why military service and public office are not just socially useful vocations, but — at their best — great and honorable ones," the archbishop continued.

While Jesus' words about the distinction between "the things that are Caesar's" and "the things that are God's" acknowledges that Caesar, the state, has rights, these words also show that Caesar is not a god and has no rights over the things that are God's.

"And ultimately, everything important about human life belongs not to Caesar, but to God: our intellect, our talents, our free will; the people we love; the beauty and goodness in the world; our soul, our moral integrity, our hope for eternal life. These are the things

that matter. These are the things worth fighting for. And none of them comes from the state."

Invoking the example of American Founding Father Charles Carroll, who suffered forms of anti-Catholic bigotry, he said that religious prejudice faced now has a different appearance.

"Caesar wears a different suit. He has great media handlers. He bullies religion while he claims to respect it. He talks piously about the law and equality and tolerance and fairness. But he still confuses himself with God — and he still violates the rights of Catholic believers and institutions by intruding himself where he has no right to be."

The archbishop then referred to Belmont Abbey College's dispute with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which reversed itself and declared that the Catholic college's refusal to cover contraceptives is discriminatory against women.

"It's one of the great ironies of the moment that tiny Belmont Abbey would have the courage to challenge Caesar over its right to be faithfully Catholic in its policies, while so many other American Catholics seem eager to give Caesar honors."

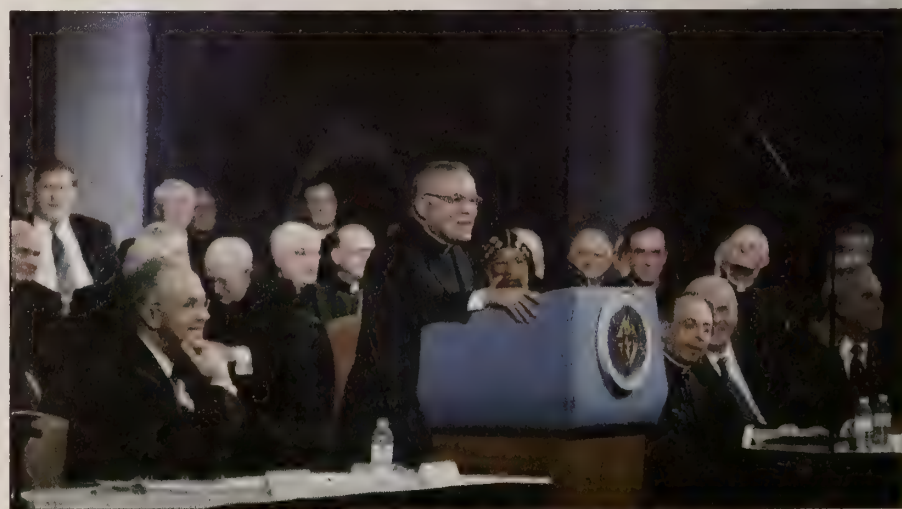
"If you stand up to evil, you may lose. But if you don't stand up, you will lose," the archbishop continued, crediting Belmont Abbey for its defense of its "right to be Catholic."

He urged Catholic citizens to demand modesty of political leaders and to show love to others not in feeling alone but in deeds.

"Working to defend the sanctity of human persons and the dignity of the human family is an obligation of Christian love. Therefore, the church can't be silent in public life and be faithful to Jesus Christ at the same time," he added.

"Our God is a God of justice; a God who does not abandon his people and who rewards courage in the face of evil. So have courage, serve the truth, love the church, take confidence in the Lord, and stand up to witness for your faith," Archbishop Chaput's speech concluded. "We've got nothing to lose. We have everything to gain."

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CNS PHOTO COURTESY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver is pictured at a recent Knights of Columbus convention. At the Envoy Institute awards banquet held at Belmont Abbey College Oct. 8, Archbishop Chaput praised the commitment of the college to support the "right to be Catholic."

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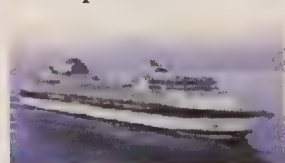
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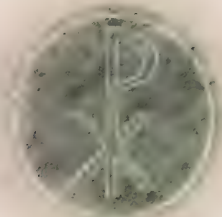
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Parish wins international award

*St. Pius X recognized
for stewardship*

BY DAVID HAINS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

GREENSBORO — For encouraging and fostering the gifts of stewardship over decades, St. Pius X Church received the Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Award from the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) on Oct. 14. The annual award recognizes one parish in the world for its effective long-term stewardship effort.

The award was presented at the annual ICSC conference in Dallas, Texas. St. Pius X is the eleventh parish to win the award. The 10 other award winners come from American cities as diverse as Youngstown, Ohio and Houston, Texas.

Tracy Welliver, pastoral

See St. PIUS, page 7

Bishop Curlin honored by Order of Malta

BY KATIE MOORE

*Special to
The Catholic News & Herald*

CHARLOTTE — As a long-time chaplain for an ancient order dedicated to serving the poor and the sick, Bishop William G. Curlin has led by example.

Bishop Curlin, Bishop Emeritus of Charlotte, will be presented with the Cross Pro Piis Meritis, an award given to clergy who have performed outstanding service on behalf of the Order of Malta, in Washington, D.C. Oct. 24.

Bishop Curlin was recommended for the award by the Federal association in Washington, D.C., one of three associations of the Order in the United States, and was approved and awarded the recognition by the Sovereign Council of the Order headquartered in Rome.

Officially known as the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, the Order of Malta was established to care for pilgrims during the Crusades. Today it is an active lay Catholic religious order and a worldwide humanitarian network. The members, called knights and dames, commit to live as defenders of the Catholic faith and to perform works of mercy.

There are about 13,000 members worldwide, with 3,000 in the United States — divided into the American, Western and Federal associations.

Bishop Curlin has been a chaplain for the order for the past 21 years and established a chapter of the Order of Malta in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1995.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte, blesses a young boy during a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. Members of the Order of Malta take groups of sick and disabled people on annual pilgrimages to Lourdes. Bishop Curlin, who serves as chaplain for the order, has led the pilgrimage for the past 17 years.



PHOTO BY TIM REID

Clergy, parishioners and visitors fill the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville for the centennial jubilee Mass Oct. 17. Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Mass. The church was designed by renowned architect Rafael Guastavino who came to the mountains of North Carolina to construct the Biltmore House.

Basilica of St. Lawrence celebrates jubilee

Over one hundred years of faith in Asheville

By CAROLE MCGROTTY

*Special to
The Catholic News & Herald*

ASHEVILLE — Rooted in the past but always moving toward the future, Asheville's Basilica of St. Lawrence celebrated its centennial jubilee of church dedication in a week

of festivities that culminated with a Mass on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Flanked by the Knights of Columbus, a procession consisting of members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of

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Culture Watch

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CATHOLIC WAR HERO



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CATHOLIC ADVANCE

U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun is pictured offering Mass in this undated photo. He has an open case for sainthood and is being considered for the U.S. military's Medal of Honor.

Father Kapaun, Korean War hero, recommended for Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Emil Kapaun, the U.S. Army chaplain who saved the lives of dozens of soldiers and died as a prisoner of war in North Korea in 1951, should receive the Medal of Honor, the Army's top official determined prior to leaving his post in September.

Father Kapaun, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., was deserving of the honor because of his actions to protect and inspire soldiers, wrote former Secretary of the Army Preston M. Geren III in a letter to Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan. Geren left his position Sept. 21 when a new secretary was sworn in.

A canonization cause for Father Kapaun formally opened June 29, 2008, with a Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in his hometown of Pilsen. Church officials in Kansas and elsewhere had been collecting documentation to support the sainthood cause for years prior to its official opening. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore started the process in 1993 when, as head of the U.S. military archdiocese, he called for Father Kapaun to receive the title servant of God.

"After giving this request careful,

personal consideration, I have determined that Chaplain Kapaun's actions in combat operations and as a prisoner of war in Korea warrant award of the Medal of Honor," Geren said in the letter.

As far back as 2001, Tiahrt had asked then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to review Father Kapaun's record.

That record shows the 35-year-old chaplain could have fallen back to safer ground when he and his men were overrun during battle. He chose to stay and was captured along with dozens of soldiers.

Father Kapaun died of starvation and pneumonia May 23, 1951, in the prison in Pyoktong, North Korea. Former prisoners of war said that during his captivity Father Kapaun defied the intimidating Chinese camp guards by praying with captive soldiers, sharing food rations with injured comrades and urging them to resist relentless interrogation.

Some of those held captive with Father Kapaun had petitioned the Army for years to award the medal.

Congress and President Barack Obama must approve the recommendation before the medal can be awarded.

U.S.-Caritas calls for justice in health care

ROME (CNS) — A conference on creating partnerships between government and faith-based organizations to fight HIV and AIDS, particularly among children, turned into something of a rally for a more just global distribution of wealth, health and technology.

Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See and Caritas Internationalis, the Oct. 14-16 conference brought together dozens of Catholic religious and lay organizations providing care to people with AIDS, along with representatives from governments, the United Nations and some of the world's largest pharmaceutical houses.

The fact that "800 children in Africa die every day from AIDS-related illnesses" is "a terrible tragedy, but it is also a scandal," said Lesley-Anne Knight, secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based umbrella organization

for Catholic charities.

It is a scandal "because we can do something about it," Knight said. Reliable tests exist for knowing whether a pregnant woman is HIV-positive, therapies exist for drastically reducing her chances of transmitting the virus to her baby and tests exist for determining if an infant has the virus and needs treatment, she said.

But in the poorer countries of the world, too many mothers go untested and too few children receive special pediatric AIDS drugs if they get any treatment at all, she said.

A partnership between the U.S. government and Catholic organizations is essential, said Miguel H. Diaz, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, since "the United States is the largest donor of global aid (and) the church is the world's largest aid-delivery organization."

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An Ignatian Retreat for Women will be offered at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall. The theme for the retreat is "Choices." Consider setting aside some time for personal reflection, prayer and silence. The retreat will conclude with Mass. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. To register, call the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail www.retreat4women@gmail.com.

CHARLOTTE — The African Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte is sponsoring a Black Catholic History Month Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte. The theme this year is, 'We've Come This Far by Faith: Black Catholic Spirituality Past, Present and Future'. Keynote speaker will be Terrial 'Terry' Aiken, Youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in High Point. For more information, contact Sandy Murdock at the Diocese of Charlotte African Affairs Ministry at (704) 370-3267.

CHARLOTTE — Join Father Patrick Hoare for *Encyclical Tuesdays* in November from 7-9 p.m. in the education wing at St. John

Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., as he explores Pope Benedict's third encyclical, "*Caritas in Veritate*." This encyclical calls us to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies while linking charity and truth to the pursuit of justice, the common good and authentic human development. Materials will be provided for this series of workshops. To reserve a space, call (704) 535-4197.

CHARLOTTE — The 2009 *Blanket Banquet* will be held on the front steps of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Catholics from various Charlotte area parishes are invited to help keep the homeless warm this winter by contributing extra blankets, sleeping bags, gently used coats and backpacks as well as new undergarments and socks for both men and women. All are invited to come to the fellowship reception to distribute the items and share refreshments with brothers and sisters in need. For more information, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelist Steve Ray will visit St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., for three inspiring presentations Oct. 30-31. The first session, "*Steve's Conversion Story*," will take place Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.; the second session, "*The Life of St. Paul*," will be held Oct. 31 at 10 a.m.; and the final session, "*The Mystery of the Eucharist*," will be held Oct. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Admission for all three sessions is free. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 549-1607.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Health Fair* will take place at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpdown Rd., Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Approximately 20 organizations will be present giving information of the services and resources they have available for the community. There will be free cholesterol screening, glucose screening, blood pressure / BMI (Body Mass Index). Free teeth screening for children. Presentations on various health topics will be offered in English and

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
INTERIM EDITOR: Heather Bellemore
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
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OCTOBER 23, 2009
VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 44

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for \$15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and \$23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.



FROM THE VATICAN

Pope establishes structure for Episcopalians uniting with Rome

Details forthcoming on how diocesan churches will receive new members

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established a special structure for Anglicans/Episcopalians who want to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church while preserving aspects of their Anglican spiritual and liturgical heritage, said U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada.

Anglicans are members of The Church of England that split from the Roman Catholic Church when King Henry VIII declared himself the head of the church in England in the 16th century. In the United States The Church of England was renamed the Episcopal Church after the American Revolutionary War.

The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said a new apostolic constitution would establish "personal ordinariates" — similar to dioceses — to oversee the pastoral care of those who want to bring elements of their Anglican identity into the Catholic Church with them.

Anglican priests who are married and desire to serve as priests can be ordained Catholic priests, although married Anglican bishops will not be able to function as Catholic bishops in keeping with the longstanding Catholic and Orthodox tradition of ordaining only unmarried clergy as bishops, Cardinal Levada said.

The cardinal announced the new arrangement during a press conference Oct. 20 at the Vatican. He

said the pope's apostolic constitution and norms for implementing were undergoing final revisions and would be published in a couple of weeks.

In North Carolina the three Episcopal dioceses are headquartered in Raleigh, Asheville and Wilmington. Diocesan websites report membership of 71,000 people.

By comparison the state's two Catholic dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh report registered membership of 349,000 Catholics.

In establishing the new jurisdictions, Pope Benedict is responding to "many requests" submitted by individual Anglicans and Anglican groups — including "20 to 30 bishops" — asking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, the cardinal said.

At the same time, Cardinal Levada explained, the new provision does not weaken the commitment of the Vatican to promoting Christian unity, but is a recognition that many Anglicans share the Catholic faith and that Anglicans have a spiritual and liturgical life worth preserving.

"It has always been the principal aim

— the principal aim — to achieve the full, visible unity" of the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion, the cardinal said.

But given recent changes within many Anglican provinces with the ordination of women priests and bishops, and the acceptance of homosexuality in some areas, the prospect of full unity "seemed to recede," he said.

The church recognizes and welcomes those Anglicans who fully share the Catholic faith, agree with the Catholic doctrine that only men can be ordained priests and recognize the role of the bishop of Rome — the pope — as the sign and guarantor of church unity, he said.

Cardinal Francis George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the church in America "stands ready to collaborate" with the Vatican in implementing a new provision to receive Anglicans into the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Levada said the norms for admitting Episcopalians into the Catholic Church will be published by the Vatican, "in the next couple of weeks."

David Hains diocesan Director of Communication contributed to this story.

Spanish. For more information, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael the Archangel Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, will host *Father Scott Daniels from Priests For Life* Oct. 24-25. Father Daniels will be the celebrant and homilist for the 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday Masses. He will also speak between the two Sunday Masses (8:45 to 9:45 a.m.) in the Parish Center. A pot luck lunch followed by a talk to the youth and adults concerning chastity and modesty will take place at 11:30 a.m. Sunday. Parishioners are also invited to join Father Daniels for prayer outside the abortion facility at 3220 Latrobe Dr., Charlotte, Oct. 24. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. and return at 1 p.m. For information, contact Deacon Art or Rosemary Kingsley at (828) 713-4341.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A public rosary crusade to honor Our Lady of Fatima and pray for our nation will take place every Saturday in October at the corner of Hwy. 68 and Skeet Club Rd. at 11:45 a.m. St. Louis de Montfort said, "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down his mercy, and holy mother church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering." Parking is available in the Big Lots parking lot. For more information, contact Ann Keefe at (336) 434-4174.

HIGH POINT — A fall session of *HOSEA* (Hope of Seeing Everyone Again) will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9 p.m. beginning Oct. 21 and running for six weeks. If you or someone you know has been away from the Catholic Church but might want to come back, HOSEA is a small group setting where one can ask questions, get answers and find out what is new since they have been away. For information, call Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5097.

GREENSBORO — Laure Hoffman from LifeSteward Ministries will speak on the topic, "What's Going On Outside the Church with Abstinence, Abortion & Crisis Pregnancy," at the Oct. 25th session of CoffeeTalk at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A weekend of healing for divorced Catholics sponsored by St. William Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission will be held Oct. 30-31. The Friday session will take place at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., at 5:45 p.m. and the Saturday session will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, US Hwy. 64 W., Hayesville, at 12 p.m. The program, facilitated by Dave Tilly, will deal with common misconceptions regarding marriage issues and the Catholic Church. For more information, call (828) 837-2000.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., will be holding a free seminar on "How to Find the Hidden Job Market" Oct. 27. There is no charge for the seminar and dinner is included. This outreach effort is designed to meet the needs of the unemployed/under-employed throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 724-0561.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Episcopal calendar

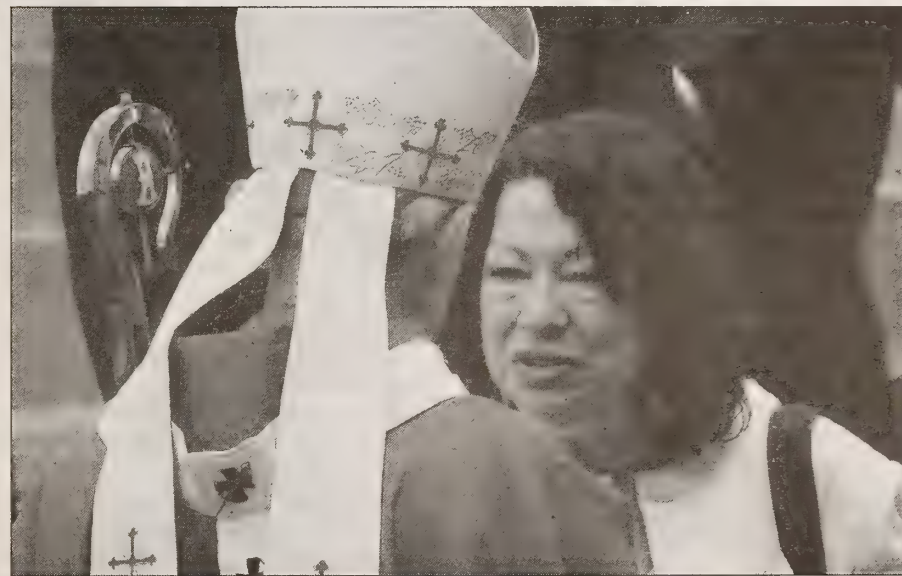
Oct. 25 (3 p.m.)
Wedding Anniversaries Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Oct. 26 (7 p.m.)
Sacrament of confirmation
Immaculate Conception Church,
Hendersonville

Oct. 28 (6:30 p.m.)
Friends of Seminarians dinner
Bishop's residence

Oct. 30-Nov. 1
Annual investiture of the Equestrian Order
of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
Washington, DC

Laws of life



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor talks with Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl following the 56th annual Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington Oct. 4. At the special Mass, the church asks God's guidance for those in the work of adjudicating and governing.

This year the Red Mass coincided with the Catholic Church's yearly celebration of Respect Life Sunday. The principal celebrant, Anchorage Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, delivered a homily on marriage, the complementarity of man and woman, and the "wondrous gift of procreating human life." Leaders, lawmakers and judges, he said, must work to protect those blessings for the good of all humankind.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sister RoseMary Boessen, R.S.M., receives the Lumen Christi award, the nation's highest honor for a missionary, from Father Jack Wall in Twin Falls, Idaho Oct. 7. The Most Reverend Michael Patrick Driscoll, Bishop of the Diocese of Boise, looks on. Sister RoseMary is a missionary in an isolated region of southern Idaho.

Nation's highest honor for missionary given to champion of poor in rural america

CHICAGO (CNS)—Catholic Church Extension Society has named Sister RoseMary Boessen, R.S.M., of the Diocese of Boise the recipient of the 2009 Lumen Christi Award, the nation's highest honor given annually to a missionary, in recognition of her exceptional service to the poor and isolated in southern Idaho.

For 32 years, the Lumen Christi Award, Latin for "Light of Christ," has been presented annually to an individual serving in one of America's mission dioceses to better the lives of those in need. In addition to the award, the recipient receives \$25,000, as does the recipient's diocese.

Nominated for the 2009 award by Bishop Michael Driscoll of the Diocese of Boise, Sister RoseMary, of Twin Falls, ID, has dedicated her life to the people of southern Idaho, developing religious education programs, establishing a group foster home for teenage girls, ministering to prisoners, and supporting and empowering the growing Hispanic population in the area.

In 1993, Sr. RoseMary founded La Posada, a nonprofit organization that assists Hispanics living in the diocese. In 2008 alone, La Posada programs served 3,000 people.

"On behalf of all of our donors who give so generously to Catholic Extension, we are deeply honored to name Sister RoseMary the 2009 Lumen Christi Award recipient in recognition of the innovation and creativity she has brought to the challenge of meeting the needs of many with few resources," said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension. "The Lumen Christi Award is one way Catholic Extension fulfills its mission to enable countless men and women like Sister RoseMary to live Christ's command to, 'Go out and bring good news to the poor.'"

Lumen Christi Award nominations are accepted from bishops of more than 80 mission dioceses that receive support from Catholic Extension. This year, 36

individuals were nominated, and the recipient was selected by a panel of judges comprised of church leaders, Catholic Extension donors and past recipients that included: Mr. Arturo Chavez, Mexican American Catholic College; Sunny Chico, Extension donor; Dr. Carol Cottrill, 2008 Lumen Christi Award Recipient; Bishop Joseph Howze, First Bishop of Biloxi; Lawrence Hyde, Extension donor; Peter Maren, Extension donor; Bob Newhart, actor and Extension donor.

Sister RoseMary was selected among many nominees in appreciation for the nearly 40 years she has tirelessly devoted to serving southern Idaho.

"Time and again, and with very little support, Sister RoseMary has built effective, lasting ministries that serve the marginalized, the poorest of the poor," said Chris Plunkett, Lumen Christi Award regional judge. "I noted the tremendously high esteem that so many have for her, and was particularly impressed by the ripple effect that her example has had in her community."

For more than 50 years, Sr. RoseMary has served as a Sister of Mercy, an international order of Roman Catholic women religious who have taken vows to serve those experiencing poverty, sickness and lack of education.

A celebration and Mass to honor Sr. RoseMary was held in Twin Falls Oct. 7.

About Catholic Church Extension Society

For more than 100 years, the Chicago-based Catholic Church Extension Society has supported Catholic missions in the U.S. by funding church construction, religious education and seminary formation, campus and outreach ministries, evangelization, and salaries for missionaries. Catholic Extension is the leading supporter of Catholic missions in the U.S. and has distributed more than \$450 million over its history.

A seed of hope

World Mission Day funds serve universal church

BY FATHER MARK LAWLOR
GUEST COLUMNIST

Through the centuries, the faith has been proclaimed to people throughout the world. In his message for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI noted that the universal Church knows neither borders nor frontiers and is aware of her responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

Our Holy Father explained that it is the duty of the Church, called to be a seed of hope, to continue Christ's service in the world and to strive to transform the world through the proclamation of the Gospel of love.

Ultimately, our missionary efforts are directed to the salvation of souls, but Pope Benedict acknowledged real material needs and encouraged financial support for the missions.

A means for missions

I was recently appointed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis as the new diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith after my good friend and brother priest, Monsignor Anthony Kovacic, concluded 14 years of service in this office.

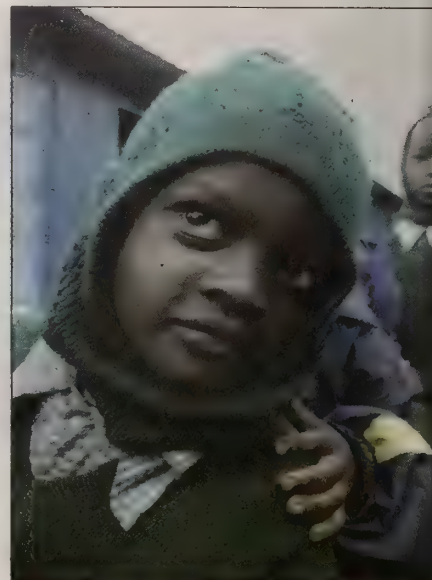
Since my appointment, I have received requests for mission appeals from dioceses, religious orders, agencies and ministries throughout the world.

As we receive many more requests than we can accommodate, one of my tasks as diocesan director will be to evaluate these requests and recommend to the diocese which mission appeals will be accepted for 2010 and which parishes should host the appeals.

In 2008, 46 parishes responded to the Missionary Cooperative Plan and donated over \$240,000. Approximately half of our parishes will be asked to host a mission appeal next year.

Enthusiastic support

I have seen that there is a missionary spirit in our diocese. Several parishes have supported missions in other parts of the world and many priests and lay persons have been on mission trips.



In our parish, St. Vincent de Paul in Charlotte, we have supported the missions in the jungle region of Peru for the last three years as a 'Sister Parish Project.'

We also recently supported the construction of a home for mothers and children that is a ministry of the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica. I know that many parishes regularly support mission projects.

I humbly ask the parishioners of the diocese to be generous to the Missionary Cooperative Appeals in your parish and to support the ongoing mission of the Church.

Even in the midst of a recession, we have much for which to be thankful. There are areas in the world where resources are very limited. There remains a great need for evangelists, missionaries and catechists — in foreign missions as well as here in home missions.

Supporting the missions unites us with our brothers and sisters throughout the Church. We have a shared mission. Pope Benedict wrote that: "Christ is the answer to a troubled world as His Gospel message brings hope and can change one's life for the better."

Father Lawlor is the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

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Bishop Curlin honored

MALTA, from page 1

"The work Bishop Curlin has done to develop the order in the Diocese of Charlotte has not been a single act, but a significant commitment on his part over a number of years," said Jackie Gallagher, a member of the Committee on Awards and Decorations for the Order of Malta.

Starting from scratch

When Bishop Curlin was installed Bishop of Charlotte in 1994, there were two members of the order living in Charlotte — Harry Grim, who was a member of the Western association, and Chuck Grace, who was a member of the American association.

Bishop Curlin met with Grim and Grace and asked them to transfer to the Federal association and to help him begin building a chapter in Charlotte.

"With their help and inspiration the order has grown here beautifully," said Bishop Curlin.

The chapter now has more than 30 knights and dames of the Federal association with several applicants in place for 2009 and 2010.

As chaplain of the Charlotte chapter, Bishop Curlin celebrates Mass for the knights and dames every first Friday, as well as on the feast of St. John the Baptist and Christmas. He also serves

"Retirement has freed me from administrative work so I can devote my time totally to spiritual work."

— Bishop Curlin

as a spiritual director for members of the order.

"Bishop Curlin's activities with the order flow from his own personal love for the sick and the poor," said Gallagher.

"He always has paid special attention to those marginalized by society, helping to establish soup kitchens, a home for battered women and children, and with Mother Teresa's support, a home for those dying of AIDS," said Gallagher. "He has served as chaplain to the AIDS victims and helped them face death with the love of Christ in their souls."

A special devotion

One of the order's principal works is taking groups of sick and disabled people on an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. Knights and dames in the Diocese of Charlotte are faithful participants in this pilgrimage and Bishop Curlin has made the pilgrimage for the past 17 years.

Members of the Order of Malta "recognize that by actively serving the poor and the sick they are serving Christ," said Bishop Curlin. "They must



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop William G. Curlin delivers a homily during a Mass in the grotto at Lourdes, France. The bishop's annual retreat to the shrine in southwestern France is part of his service as chaplain to the Order of Malta. Bishop Curlin helped establish the Order of Malta in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1995. He will receive the Cross Pro Pius Meritis, an award given to clergy who perform outstanding service on behalf of the order, in Washington D.C. Oct. 24.

make a commitment to engage actively in these works of charity and love. The pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the ways in which they very actively serve those who are physically ill."

The church has recognized as miracles 67 cures attributed to Mary's intercession at Lourdes, but pilgrims believe many more undocumented miracles have also occurred.

Each year, more than 5 million pilgrims bathe in or drink the spring water at Lourdes in search of a miraculous cure, but there is more to be gained than just physical healing.

"The main healing is spiritual — a deepening of your faith and an understanding of how to accept suffering as the passion of Jesus in one's life," said Bishop Curlin.

Continuing service

Bishop Curlin retired as Bishop of Charlotte in 2002, but has continued to provide ministerial support in the diocese and beyond.

He helps pastors in the diocese by celebrating Masses at parishes when there is a need and, like all priests, he

stays busy administering the sacraments.

"Retirement has freed me from administrative work so I can devote my time totally to spiritual work," he said.

"It is a blessing to be able to visit the sick and offer help and comfort to their families," said Bishop Curlin.

Bishop Curlin is also in high demand as a retreat director for priests, religious and lay people across the United States.

"Anyone who knows Bishop Curlin comes to consider him a friend," said Gallagher. "He lives his own life by following the advice he gives all of us in the order, and that is to 'allow the Jesus in us to see the Jesus in others,'" she said.

"That's what Mother Teresa said," added Bishop Curlin. "When you rise up in the morning God wakes up in you; and through you, Jesus reveals his presence to others."

"Everyone makes that commitment through baptism," said Bishop Curlin. "Through baptism you actually have become the presence of Christ in this world."

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
THEOLOGY
OF THE
Body

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Saturday, Nov. 21 — Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Adults: 9am — 3pm

Teens: 6:30 — 8:30pm

Info: basilicatob@gmail.com

Co-sponsored by the Natural Family Planning Program of Catholic Social Services



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford of Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, during a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France.

Christ's mission called source, strength of church's care for migrants

MALVERN, Pa. (CNS) — Those who care for migrants and refugees are not motivated “simply by good will or a commitment to justice,” but by the fact that the Son of God was “a stranger in a foreign land” and reached out to the marginalized, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said in an Oct. 8 homily.

Christ's mission “is the source and strength of our work on behalf of forced migrants and refugees, asylees and immigrants, and victims of human trafficking,” the cardinal said.

In his public ministry, Christ “sought out the marginalized and those who were on the outskirts,” Cardinal Rigali said. “And he went even further: He suffered, died and was buried. He went down among the dead to seek out the lost and he rose again victorious.”

The cardinal gave the homily during a Mass in Malvern, in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, that was celebrated during a regional convening of Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope, the U.S. bishops' campaign for comprehensive immigration reform.

The campaign's goals are to educate the public and Catholic community about migration and immigrants; create political will for positive immigration reform; work for enactment of legislative and administrative reforms based on the bishops' principles; and organize Catholic networks to help qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of reform.

Cardinal Rigali said the church's mission to migrants and refugees anticipates the time described in the Gospel of Matthew when Christ “comes in his glory” and “all the nations will be assembled before him.”

“Our gathering here this morning and your work every day anticipate that gathering of the nations, that unity of the peoples, that assembly of all the citizens of the world,” he said.

“There will be no walls or fences, no camps or detention centers, no raids or human smuggling, no dishonesty or violence, no exploitation by employers, and no downtrodden classes or unrecognized status,” he continued. “And from that vantage point, the Lord Jesus will call together, gather into an even greater unity, those who ... have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked and visited the imprisoned.”

The church's welcoming of the stranger and those in need “is more than polite manners or proper etiquette,” he said, because “Jesus calls us to love those who suffer” and he “abides with those who are suffering.”

Cardinal Rigali continued: “When we care for victims of human trafficking, when we assist refugees in resettlement, when we advance the work of children's services, when we uphold the human dignity and human rights of those who are undocumented, when we offer haven and protection to those seeking asylum, when we offer safe passage, respect and opportunities to immigrants, we also welcome the Lord Jesus.”

“Our moral status as a nation, as citizens and as believers is founded immediately on our ability to welcome and care for the weakest among us.”

— Cardinal Rigali

He said that “the work of organizing, advocacy, communication and Catholic moral teaching in social justice is our response to the voice of Jesus.”

“Our moral status as a nation, as citizens and as believers is founded immediately on our ability to welcome and care for the weakest among us,” he added.

He said it was no accident that the author of the day's reading from the Book of Deuteronomy used “the alien, the orphan, the widow” four times.

“In fact,” he said, “the laws of worship of the Deuteronomical Code are closely aligned with caring for the poor and acting with justice. The ancient pilgrimage feasts of the Israelites required the participation of the poor for validity as worship.”

Cardinal Rigali also referred to what Pope Benedict XVI said about migration in his social encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), released in June. He said the pope emphasized that international collaboration and cooperation are essential to human migration policies.

He quoted from the 2002 joint pastoral letter of the Mexican and U.S. bishops, “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope”: “Conversion of mind and heart leads to communion expressed through hospitality on the part of receiving communities and a sense of belonging and welcome on the part of those in the communities where migrants are arriving.”

The cardinal affirmed the church's work on behalf of “migrants and refugees, immigrants and those who seek asylum, and to victims of human trafficking and children who are orphaned, displaced and suffering.”

“We seek to secure adequate medical care and nutrition, to advance education and the recognition of rights, to provide resettlement and regularization,” he said. “As we offer these works of charity and justice in their various forms, the Lord Jesus recognizes them and sends the Holy Spirit so that our work may help advance and deepen the unity of the children of God.”

CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY INITIATIVE



CNS PHOTO BY SIPHINE SIBEKO, REUTERS

A homeless child stands in front of a pot and a make-shift hut in late March in Nosybe, Madagascar. The U.S. Bishops and Catholic Relief Services say more than 250,000 Catholics are praying for those in poverty as well as advocating for policies that will address the bleak situation. The goal of the initiative is to reach one million Catholics.

Global poverty initiative reaches more than 250,000 U.S. Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 250,000 Catholics have been reached through the Catholics Confront Global Poverty initiative, a joint effort by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services to address the root causes of global poverty through education and advocacy.

In less than seven months, the initiative has reached one quarter of its goal to mobilize one million Catholics, according to a recent announcement from the USCCB and CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

The initiative calls on Catholics to learn about and share the stories of those struggling to rise above extreme poverty, to pray for the world's poorest people and to approach policymakers on the issue as advocates for the poor worldwide.

“The global financial crisis is having a devastating impact on people here and the poor around the world, and the progress that has been made could be wiped out for decades to come,” Ken Hackett, CRS president, said in a statement. “In a world where an estimated 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, the message of the church is clear. As Catholics, we are called to help our brothers and sisters in need.”

Catholics Confront Global Poverty was launched in February 2009 in response to Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 message for the World Day of Peace, titled “Fighting Poverty to Build Peace.”

Through his encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), the pope reiterated his plea for richer nations to stand with people living in poverty and take action, especially in light of the global financial crisis.

“Through support for economically

poor countries by means of financial plans inspired by solidarity ... not only can true economic growth be generated, but a contribution can be made toward sustaining the productive capacities of rich countries that risk being compromised by the crisis,” he said in the encyclical.

As of mid-September, the USCCB and CRS said, more than 250,000 Catholics — in parishes, in schools and universities, and in communities of men and women religious — have been connected to grass-roots efforts to raise awareness of global poverty.

Participants in the initiative are involved in social networking, presentations and prayers, and many have sent messages to and visited with their elected officials on legislative measures to fight global poverty.

The USCCB and CRS said grass-roots advocacy by Catholics who objected to cuts in the 2010 State Foreign Operations Appropriations bill helped protect funding for anti-poverty initiatives.

“This is a great example of how our advocacy work benefits those we serve overseas while at the same time providing opportunities for Catholics to act on their faith and join the work of CRS,” Hackett said.

The initiative asks Catholics to take action on issues such as improving and increasing U.S. international assistance; strengthening international peacekeeping and peace-building initiatives; reforming global trade and agriculture policies; ensuring that poorer countries' natural resources are used in ways that protect the environment; promoting comprehensive immigration reform; and addressing global climate change.

International award for Greensboro church

St. PIUS, from page 1

associate at St. Pius X Church, made a presentation to the conference that described the stewardship activities and the results achieved at the parish since it first adopted stewardship in 1986. "In the early days the parish was involved in a lot of different stewardship activities but we didn't use that terminology," said Welliver.

St. Pius X Church traces its stewardship roots to community outreach such as the support of Dolan Manor, a 57-unit low income HUD-subsidized housing complex built on parish property. Their involvement grew 10 years ago when a partnership was forged between the parish and a community in the mountains of Manazo, Peru. Over the years 125 parishioners have traveled to the South American community and have helped to advance health care in the community, funded the first village telephone system and provided funding to rebuild a church.

Welliver says the stewardship message is delivered through everything from brochures to prayer cards to sermons. Ninety percent of the messages emphasize the gifts of time and talent while only 10 percent focus on treasure. The 12-member stewardship commission also organizes an annual ministry day, as well as a day of reflection that is open to all parishioners of St. Pius X Church.

Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church stated, "Over the years we have moved from seeing stewardship as a program or a way of getting people to volunteer toward a vision of stewardship as a way of life. Through our stewardship, we embrace the imperative of the mission of the church - 'to go and teach all the nations the Good News.' Our stewardship is the concrete means to live the consistent mandate of Christ, His great Mandatum

- to serve. Far more than volunteering we are seeing stewardship as accepting the responsibility that comes with the freedom of being the children of God."

Of receiving the award, Msgr. Marcaccio stated, "In this Year For Priests, I thank God for the unmerited grace and privilege that is mine to serve and shepherd this parish family as it answers its baptismal call and grows to full stature in Christ."

The parish credits stewardship with significant growth in several areas. Mass attendance has increased by 24 percent over the past five years, a number that exceeds the 18 percent overall growth of the parish.

Ministry involvement among parishioners has grown as well. Currently 50 percent of St. Pius X Church's 4,200 registered members are involved in 85 ministries.

Although giving, or treasure, is less emphasized, the parish has seen offertory giving rise by nearly 60 percent over the last nine years. St. Pius X Church is also the first parish in the diocese to exceed a million dollars in its endowment, primarily through a focus on planned giving.

Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development and president of the ICSC board said, "When stewardship is practiced in a parish community, the lives of the individual members are transformed as well as the parish community itself."

The Murphy award is named for the late Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy of Seattle who championed the concept of stewardship throughout his priestly ministry. Archbishop Murphy died in 1994. The award was created by the ICSC in 1997.

For parishes that are considering approaching their ministerial and volunteer activities through stewardship, Welliver has some advice: "You don't have to start everything at once," he says. "You are never going to be truly ready, so it is best to follow the advice of the Nike slogan and 'Just Do It.'"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Members of the Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity pause to smile before raising the walls for the eleventh Interfaith House in Enka Oct 18.

Different faiths construct common goal

Interfaith community builds Habitat home

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMEIDER
CORRESPONDENT

In addition to building homes, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity (AAHH) has helped to build ties among area churches for the eleven years interfaith houses have been under construction.

"This project is in partnership among the churches in the area," said Betsy Warren, House Sponsor Coordinator. "In this day and age where everybody talks about hate and violence across faiths worldwide, the interfaith house has people from different denominations come together and work together to build a house for a family in need. It becomes a peace-making initiative."

The 2009 Interfaith House for AAHH is located in Enka. Members from area churches united in their efforts to build the 884-square-foot home. Baha'i Faith Center; Congregation Beth HaTephila; Beth Israel Synagogue; First Christian Church of Asheville; First Congregational Church; Jubilee! Community; Inc.; the parishes of St. Eugene Church, St. Barnabas Church, the Basilica of St. Lawrence, St. Margaret Mary Church; Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville and Unity Center of Fletcher/Mills River are not only giving their time and talents to the project through volunteers, but also have committed to working toward raising \$25,000 toward funding of the project.

In addition to the dedication of the workers on this house, new residents will be doubly rewarded since the Asheville Area Habitat organization tithes house-for-house. Funding is provided to build a home in another country for every home that is built in Buncombe County. Countries currently receiving these funds include Guatemala, Mozambique, Egypt, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The house in Enka, begun in August of this year, is nearing completion and is expected to be finished by December. At this time, painting has been completed, interior trim work is underway, and the home is ready for cabinet installation.

"Other Habitat affiliates and Habitat International expressed disbelief that we could have so many different faiths work together on a house," said Warren. "Now the other affiliates from across the country call and ask us how we do it."

Through commitment to community and to God, these churches build homes for those who need their help. Catholic churches in the Asheville area bring the tenets of faith into action alongside others who seek to serve God and humanity.



PHOTO COURTESY

Pictured at the International Catholic Stewardship Council meeting in Dallas, Texas are Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development; Pat Spivey; Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio; Tracy Welliver; Karen Lizotte; Anne Knapke; Ben Yorks; Patti Dunning; Barb Gaddy; Kim Knox; Liz Pendergrass. Gaddy is the assistant director of development for the diocese. Everyone else in the photo is from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro which won the Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy award for their outstanding stewardship effort over the past 23 years.



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COURTESY PHOTO

First-place team members from Andrews hold their trophy after the Angie Harris Memorial Bowling Tournament hosted by St. William Church in Murphy on Oct. 9.

Team members pictured (from left) include Keisha Lecata, Sue Ensley, Judy Bailey, Josh Chatham and Tim Martin.

The 108 bowlers from Andrews, Cherokee and Franklin were accompanied by volunteers. This was the 27th year that St. William has hosted this event.

RCIA thanks



COURTESY PHOTO

Carlos Castañeda of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte proudly displays his RCIA Achievement Award. Linda Licata, Chairperson of the Diocesan RCIA Commission, shares the moment with him on Oct. 14. The award is a pin in the shape of the diocesan shield. Castañeda is retiring after 12 years of service to the Diocesan RCIA Commission.

Cris Villapando, Ph.D., diocesan director of faith formation programs, created the commission to help the bishop and pastors of the diocese in forming parish leaders who assist in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Members of the commission are volunteers from across the diocese.

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Our Lady of Grace School Library
Greensboro

SATURDAY, November 7

10-11am Speaker (refreshments at 9am)
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall
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The Catholic
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Jubilee in Asheville

BASILICA, from page 1

Jerusalem was followed by altar servers, priests and bishops.

Always beautiful, the basilica was resplendent with flowers on the pews, beneath the Stations of the Cross, on the altar and communion rails. Some were spread on gold cloths marking the red and gold colors of the basilica.

In his homily, Bishop Peter J. Jugis noted that James Cardinal Gibbons proclaimed at the church's consecration in 1920 that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The bishop stated that the basilica still inspires us today and that Jesus Christ is the one who says to each of us, "Come follow me."

Bishop Jugis said the church's stained glass windows proclaim the presence of Jesus Christ even when no one is in the building. "Everything in this church speaks to us of Jesus Christ," the bishop said. "The risen Christ presides over this assembly and reigns supreme over this parish family. Every Mass brings you into communion with Christ Himself in Holy Communion."

After the Mass, Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of St. Lawrence Church,

read a letter from Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Papal Nuncio to the United States for Pope Benedict XVI, conferring his Apostolic Blessing on the people of the parish.

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Jugis was Bishop Emeritus Joseph Howze of the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi. Bishop Howze was pastor of St. Anthony's church in Asheville and became pastor of St. Lawrence when the two churches merged. He also celebrated the Sunday noon Mass and spoke to the congregation, his voice amazingly strong at the age of 86.

Also concelebrating were: Abbott Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. David Brockman, representing Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Raleigh; Msgr. John J. McSweeney, former pastor; Father Morris Boyd, parochial vicar of St. Lawrence Church; Father Larry LoMonaco, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Waynesville; Father John Pagel, former pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church; and Father Frank Seabo, former parochial vicar of the basilica. Deacon Richard Voegel assisted at Mass.

After Saturday's celebratory Mass, clergy, parishioners, visitors, Asheville civic leaders and residents attended a reception at the Haywood Hotel in downtown Asheville.



Bishop Jugis delivers the solemn blessing at the end of the Centennial Jubilee Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.



PHOTOS BY TIM REID

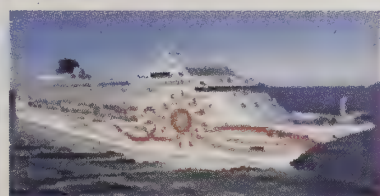
Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy (center) speaks to Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, and centennial jubilee chair Alice Cella. Mayor Bellamy read a pronouncement declaring Oct. 17 as Basilica of St. Lawrence Day in Asheville.

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CONNECTING CHRISTIANS



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, presents his book on ecumenical dialogue during a press conference at the Vatican Oct. 15. The book, titled "Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue," covers 40 years of dialogue with mainline Protestant churches.

Ecumenical quality control

Cardinal reviews 40 years of dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's chief ecumenist, tried to harvest the fruits of 40 years of dialogue with the mainline Protestant churches, he did it by the piece, not the bushel.

The result is a 207-page book, "Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue," which celebrates abundant growth in understanding among Christians, but with a sharp sense of quality control.

The book bears the cardinal's name as author, although others had a hand in the project: former and current members of the cardinal's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the cardinal-members of the council and theologians from other Christian communities.

Four decades of official Catholic dialogues with the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches have led to recognition of a strong shared faith in Jesus Christ and the Trinity, the content of the creed and baptism, the book said.

It highlighted a "fresh and renewed understanding of the relation between Scripture and tradition" and the almost miraculous agreements with Lutherans and Methodists on justification — how people are made righteous in the eyes of

God — which was the key dispute of the Protestant Reformation.

But it acknowledged serious differences in understanding and in practice regarding the meaning of ordination and who can be ordained, the question of authority in the church and who exercises it, and how Christian communities can determine what constitutes an authentic interpretation of Scripture.

In addition, the book acknowledges that while many of the historic disputes that kept Christians divided have been overcome, differences over new ethical problems — particularly concerning human sexuality — are moving some of the churches further apart and even creating new divisions within individual Christian communities.

The cardinal, his staff and representatives of the Catholic Church's four dialogue partners will gather in February to study the book as the basis for a discussion on "the future of Western ecumenism," Cardinal Kasper said.

Presenting the book at the Vatican, Cardinal Kasper said that even the people working on it were "positively surprised at how much has been accomplished in these years. It is a very rich harvest that overcomes the polemics and the great historical problems of the Reformation."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 1, 2009

November 1, All Saints

Cycle B Readings:

- 1) Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalm 24:1b-6
- 2) 1 John 3:1-3
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Saints among us

Extraordinary faith in ordinary lives

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Emmett Starnes was never canonized. But I'm fairly certain he lives among the communion of saints.

The Gospel reading for the feast of All Saints offers Jesus' beatitudes: an approach to life that assures trials ... but promises ultimate happiness in the presence of God. It is the life of courageous, faithful obedience to God, that has been shown to us by all the saints.

Including Emmett Starnes.

Emmett was a coal miner in Kentucky in the 1930s, a young widower with four school-age children. I learned his story from his daughter, Pauline, now 88.

Her father, who supervised other miners, knew firsthand the hardship they suffered along with their families. He was keenly aware of exploitation by their employers through unfair labor practices, poor wages and an unhealthy, unsafe work environment.

When a miners union came to

the area, Emmett began attending the meetings. Here was a man who "hungred and thirsted for righteousness," in the words of the beatitudes. For years he and several fellow miners fought for unionization, "but every time they tried to get together they got shot at," Pauline said.

When local miners went on strike, her father's adversaries promised violence. "They said they were going to kidnap his kids. They threatened to kill us," she remembered.

"We stayed scared," Pauline recalled. "They were after my daddy. I know one time he came home with a bullet hole in his hat."

While the company prevailed, Emmett persisted in his efforts to organize the workers at great personal risk, and even had to move his family to a neighboring town.

But one night as he drove home from an organizing meeting, someone shot out Emmett's tires, causing him to wreck his car. He died a short time later as a result.

Emmett never witnessed the righteous end for which he lived and died. But Jesus promised, "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus offers us hope in the resurrection. Our Catholic tradition says that means joining the communion of saints — those faithful ones who stood fast for the kingdom of God. Our call is to live in a way worthy of standing with Emmett and those "blessed" who have gone before us.

Questions:

Who have you known personally who is a model of courageous faithfulness? What can you do to become more closely bound with the communion of saints?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25-31

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday**, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Romans 8:18-21; **Wednesday (Saints Simon and Jude)**, Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; **Thursday**, Romans 8:31-39, Luke 13:31-35; **Friday**, Romans 9:1-5, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1-7

Sunday (All Saints), Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday (All Souls)**, Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Tuesday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday (St. Charles Borromeo)**, Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday**, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday**, Romans 15:14-21, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday**, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15.

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Sell the Vatican?

Nigerian archbishop calls the idea 'stupid'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sell the Vatican to help the poor?

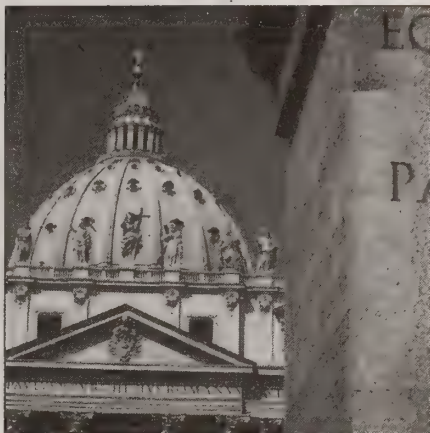
U.S. comedian Sarah Silverman might think it's a great idea, but a Nigerian archbishop called the suggestion offensive and "stupid."

Africans from poor countries admire the Vatican, and have no desire to dismantle it, Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja told reporters at a briefing on the Synod of Bishops for Africa Oct. 16.

"The few poor people who come here have never said, 'Oh, why don't you sell this and give us money for food.' They always say, 'What a beautiful place.' They admire it ... maybe because man does not live by bread alone," the archbishop said.

"I think the joke is not only offensive, but in bad taste and stupid. What they should be asking is: What is the Vatican doing about poverty in the world?" he said.

Silverman, in a recent video monologue laced with profanity, jokingly called on Pope Benedict XVI to "move out of your house that is a city" and use the proceeds to feed the hungry. Among those denouncing the comedian was the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which called the video "another assault on Catholicism."



Archbishop Onaiyekan said the public might have misperceptions about the pope's living quarters. The Vatican is not the pope's "mansion," but a set of office buildings, he said. As for the papal apartment, he has seen it and it's "very straightforward and simple," he said.

He said the question of economic justice has come up in a more serious way at the African synod.

"Poverty in the world has to be dealt with by justice. There are other big buildings that need to be moved and sold — all those big structures, all those unjust financial and economic structures in the world. Those are the things to move, so that the poor can survive," he said.

EWTN foundress Mother Angelica and Deacon Steltemeier receive papal honors

IRONDALE, Ala. (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross to Mother Mary Angelica, founder of the Eternal Word Television Network, and Deacon Bill Steltemeier, chairman of EWTN's board of governors, for distinguished service to the church.

The cross, whose name is Latin for "for the church and the pope," is the highest papal honor that can be conferred on laypeople and clergy.

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham presented the awards Oct. 4 in a brief ceremony following Benediction at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville.

"By giving awards, the church is not saying people or institutions are perfect, but we are saying that Mother Angelica, through this network, has made a significant contribution to the new evangelization heralded and promoted by recent popes," Bishop Baker said in his homily. "Mother Angelica's effort has been at the vanguard of the new evangelization and has had a great impact on our world."

The bishop said Deacon Steltemeier had "perpetuated this global Catholic apostolate as chairman of the board, and until recently, as chief executive officer."

"He is still helping EWTN carry out its mission to join with the Holy Father and the magisterium in sharing the light of the faith in every possible part of the world," he added.

Michael P. Warsaw, EWTN president and CEO, said the honor "acknowledges the tremendous faith, hard work and incredible sacrifices that each of them has made throughout the years in founding and building up the network."

It also is "a clear sign of the importance of the network's mission for the church and the pope," Warsaw added in a statement.

Mother Angelica, an 86-year-old member of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, founded Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale in 1961 and began EWTN in 1981 in a garage on the monastery property. The network now is available in more than 150 million television households in more than 140 countries and territories.

Deacon Steltemeier, 80, was an attorney in Nashville, Tenn., who left his law practice to join Mother Angelica with her fledgling television network. He served as EWTN's president for many years.

Because of ill health, Mother Angelica received the award in her private quarters rather than at the public ceremony.

Documentary leads to retreats, parish missions on forgiveness

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Paulist Father Frank Desiderio sensed something was happening at the very first public screening last year of his documentary feature on forgiveness, "The Big Question."

"People started crying," he recalled. "You know that stunned silence when people watch the end of a film? Then people started telling us stories. Sometimes it was a family story, sometimes it was a war story, sometimes it was a crime story, but it was about forgiveness that needed to happen."

Still, it seemed impractical to have a priest offering the sacrament of reconciliation outside each theater at the end of every showing of "The Big Question."

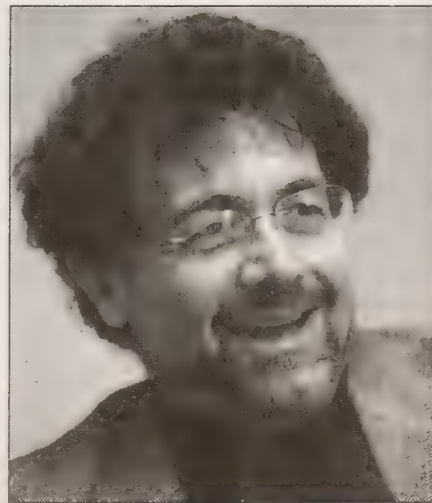
Father Desiderio, a priest for 27 years, has responded with parish forgiveness retreats and missions that can last part of one day or stretch out to three or even four days.

In September, the priest resigned as president and executive producer of Paulist Productions, a post he had held since 2000, to develop the retreats and missions.

"Forgiveness is mandated for the Christian," the priest told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 8 telephone interview

from Los Angeles.

"In Matthew's Gospel after Jesus teaches the Lord's Prayer, he immediately follows that up with, 'If you don't forgive from your heart then God's not going to forgive you,'" he said.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Paulist Father Frank Desiderio, executive producer of the Paulist Pictures documentary "The Big Question," smiles during an interview with a Catholic News Service reporter. The film's success led Father Desiderio to develop retreats and missions themed around forgiveness.

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1. Publication Title The Catholic News & Herald		2. Publication Number 007397	3. Filing Date
4. Issue Frequency Weekly (bi-weekly June, July, August)		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 44	6. Annual Subscription Price (if any) \$15
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 1123 C. Church, Charlotte NC 28203		Contact Person David Hains Telephone (include area code) 704.370.6299	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)			
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St, Charlotte, NC 28203			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) David Hains 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203			
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)			
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Fire truck fun



COURTESY PHOTO

The crew of the Gaston Fire Department, Engine 5, visit Amy Schatz' fourth-grade class at St. Michael School in Gastonia Oct. 14. After giving a presentation about fire safety and prevention, the firefighters allowed students to tour the truck inside and out. October is Fire Prevention Month.

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13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/09/09	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		54,816	55,800
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	54,636	55,676
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c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		54,636	55,676
d. Non-requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include Sample copies, Requests Over 3 years old, Requests induced by a Premium, Bulk Sales and Requests including Association Requests, Names obtained from Business Directories, Lists, and other sources)	0	0
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e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)		54,636	55,676
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3))		150	150
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		54,786	55,826
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 1 times 100)		100	100

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the issue of this publication. 10/23/09

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
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Date: 10/16/09

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Socking it to cancer



COURTESY PHOTO

The Bishop McGuinness Junior Villains wear pink socks in a team photo prior to a game against High Point Christian School in Kernersville Oct. 10. The team is "pumped to wear pink" in support of teammate Frankie Allusio, whose mother Stacey suffers from breast cancer.

The 30-boy team comes from triad area Catholic elementary schools, including Saint Leo and Our Lady of Mercy schools in Winston-Salem, Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, and Saint Pius X and Our Lady of Grace schools in Greensboro.

Head coach Jeff Raborn says the two-year-old team "prepares these boys to play high school football in the finest Catholic school tradition."

The boys won the game 44-18, improving their season record to 4-1.

Honest Abe makes a presidential visit



COURTESY PHOTO

Actor Peter Holland portrays Abraham Lincoln during a visit with the four-year-old pre-kindergarten students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem on Oct. 19. The children listened to a story recounting part of the Civil War president's life. Holland is part of "Once Upon a Blue Ridge," a traveling theatre company that specializes in educational productions.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Wanting proof for the miracles of Jesus

A classroom full of Catholic high school students took turns challenging their religion teacher. They wanted some kind of proof that Jesus really performed the miracles attributed to him.

The teacher explained that the apostles were firsthand witnesses of the extraordinary events in Jesus' life.

We read their accounts and make an act of faith in the trustworthiness of their testimony. Jesus performed dozens of miracles to support his divinity: healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, bringing people back to life, changing water into wine, walking on the water, calming a storm at sea.

His greatest miracle was his own resurrection from the dead.

Skeptics and atheists go so far as to say that there is not a shred of evidence in the entire universe for the existence of the supernatural. They demand empirical evidence before they will believe anything.

Believers know that the entire universe did not just appear out of nowhere, that something doesn't come from nothing. Faith in God as a benign creator is not an irrational act; it is based on deductive reasoning, for example, the way Sherlock Holmes solved his murder mysteries. Through revelation we know that God created our wonderful universe out of love.

Doubt is basically a refusal to believe this, unless scientific evidence can prove it. Doubt is a flat refusal to accept supernatural truths.

It is not the same as an intellectual difficulty. All the difficulties in the world do not add up to a single doubt.

A difficulty is a feeling of unease as we try to comprehend the mystery behind a doctrine. For instance, we believe in the Trinity, but we cannot

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

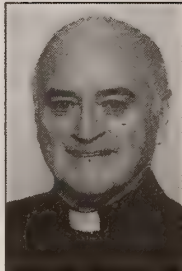


figure out how three can equal one. Everyone has difficulty trying to explain how Jesus Christ is both God and man, but believers accept the teaching as an imponderable mystery.

Accepting mysteries can be difficult, but it is not unreasonable. Jesus revealed these mysteries to us. Belief in Jesus is more than an act of accepting the historical facts about his life. It is primarily an act of the will, prompted by grace. We accept Jesus as our personal Lord and savior.

Once we do this, we banish all lingering doubts.

Remember when the apostle Thomas said he wouldn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead unless he could put his finger into the Lord's nail marks and put his hand into Christ's side? Once Thomas did that, he believed fully.

Later Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (Jn 20:29).

Faith is a gift, the benefits of which are immeasurable. The will to believe is a grace, which can be accepted or rejected.

Take the leap of faith with a prayer as simple as this: Father I accept the gift of your love with deep humility and gratitude. Help me to overcome my doubts. I trust you as my Lord and my God.

Preparing for ultimate humiliation

Part three of a three-part series

Little by little, I realized that it was time to take my hands off the steering wheel of life, and let God do the driving.

After mailing 500 resumes, with 50 responses, and five interviews, I thought I would surely land a job. But six months into my job search, I realized that it was time to prepare for the ultimate humiliation.

I had to "bite the bullet" and make plans to meet Monsignor Joseph Showfety and tell him that we had to pull my daughter out of Saint Leo's Catholic School.

The phone seemed to have turned into a 5,000 pound elephant. Calling the church office required every bit of effort I had left. The meeting with Monsignor Showfety was scheduled with ample time for me to worry about the shame and humiliation of having to admit that I was jobless.

Much to my surprise, I was welcomed into Monsignor's office. "Here it comes," I thought while I searched for words.

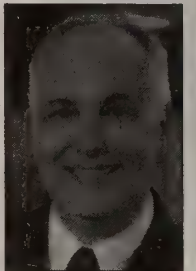
I thought about how ashamed my parents had to be. While he was alive, my father had never lost a job. I could hear him say: "Work hard, do the right thing, do whatever it takes, get a good job and you will be there for as long as you work."

Finally the words tumbled out, and I waited for the lecture that was sure to come next.

Monsignor stunned me with his response. He said, "Under no circumstance will I allow you to pull

Professionals in Transition

DAMIAN BIRKEL
GUEST COLUMNIST



your child out of our school."

"But," I stammered, "we don't have enough savings to cover the expense."

He said, "I believe in you, and know you will get a job. Trust in God and you will see."

It was like a ton of bricks had been lifted off of my shoulders. First, I stopped at the church and gave thanks. You can imagine the joy our family experienced. It was a bright spot in six months of dismal failure.

What happened next was unbelievable. In the span of four days, I got three calls from different divisions of the same corporation I had just left. Ultimately, I would return to work without a pay cut and with family benefits intact and retirement bridged. Like Monsignor suggested, I turned my trust over to our Lord, and my life was forever changed.

Damian Birkel is a nationally certified Career Counselor. On Oct. 27, Birkel will speak on "Finding the Hidden Job Market" at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. For more information, see the Diocesan Planner on page 3.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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A lesson from defeatist obituaries

The first Monday of November is yet another way that Catholics are able to show our way to the world -- by celebrating death.

This is indeed countercultural.

In today's climate, death is a situation to escape, a topic to be avoided.

All Souls' Day is more than a piety: It is the public recognition that we not only accept death but welcome it as the inevitable end of our earthly pilgrimage.

Current culture does not agree. Consider the language used in obituaries:

"Valiant three-year battle with cancer."

"Lost her courageous battle with cancer."

This language makes the deceased seem like losers. If they had been stronger, the doctors better, the surgery successful, they would have lived.

The incessant attempt by human beings to achieve longevity, if not immortality, has been the topic of legend and amusement for centuries.

There have been attempts to send human remains into outer space to await a better time to return to earth.

Such explorations do harm by advancing the concept that the human body is but one more machine.

A quest for immortality, with science on its side, reduces the body to a machine, wonderfully designed by God, but still in need of upgrading by humankind.

The human person, however, is created by God as body and soul, and for this reason has a dignity that cannot be changed by anyone.

Death is inevitable, not to be feared by those who have faith in the purpose of creation and the goodness of its Creator.

Among that one day's defeatist obituaries, one stood out for containing this thought: "He courageously won his three-year battle with esophageal cancer as his soul soared triumphantly to its

Consider This

STEPHEN KENT
CNS COLUMNIST



heavenly home."

It is good we have a commemoration of the departed and the opportunity to reflect upon our own inevitable end.

Stephen Kent, the retired editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and Seattle, can be contacted at considersk@comcast.net.

Mickey Paluch, a force for strengthening vocations

Working far from home in a place I never imagined I would be, I wonder how I got here. I also think about the people who made this happen. Were it not for their influence, I probably would not be a priest today, living in Washington, thousands of miles from my home.

On Oct. 8, Margaret (Mickey) Paluch died. She was the driving force behind the J.S. Paluch Co. publishing house. Having known her personally and experienced her work in supporting and strengthening vocations to religious life, I am left wondering how many of us who were touched by her have been changed ever so little or are in another place because of her devotion.

For decades, I attended the J.S. Paluch annual vocation directors' meeting in Chicago, which presented outstanding speakers on religious life and the church. Each year Mickey would mount the podium, pledging to us her undying support and that of J.S. Paluch. The support went far beyond hosting the annual meeting. It reached out to thousands throughout this country who

work in church ministry.

Mickey's death further causes me to wonder about the repetition of that support. Why was the meeting annually and not every other year? Why the continual stream of grants? Why the constant involvement in the church? Why were she and J.S. Paluch so persistent?

In addressing the meaning of the rosary, Father Romano Guardini raises a similar question: Why do we pray the Hail Mary repeatedly?

He writes, "Is it not an element of all life? What else is the beating of the heart but repetition? Always the same contraction and expansion — and yet it makes the blood circulate through the body. They are the order in which growth progresses, the inner kernel develops and the form is revealed. All life realizes itself in the rhythm of external conditions and internal accomplishment."

Father Guardini's insight leaves us wondering how much movement of the heart and the subsequent spiritual growth it generates were the result of the

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



repeated efforts of Mickey Paluch?

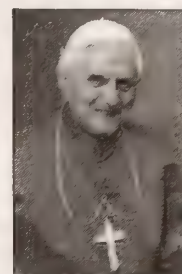
Mickey's passing leaves us pondering death and its aftermath. Now that her work is completed, is she enjoying the peace of God we all hope to experience?

My guess is she is still plugging religious life with God and our heavenly saints. She had a delightful twinkle in her eyes when sharing herself with us. Behind that twinkle was an unending, loving spirit for religious life — a spirit that never dies but lives on in those of us who were blessed to experience it.

Saint from Middle Ages found answers to life with prayer

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The life and writings of a 12th-century abbot remind Christians that questions about the meaning of life and God cannot be answered without prayer and contemplation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who led the important Cistercian monastery in Clairvaux, France, from 1115 until his death in 1153, put the love of God and Jesus Christ at the center of his numerous writings, the pope said at his weekly general audience Oct. 21.

"St. Bernard reminds us that, without deep faith in God that is strengthened by prayer, contemplation and an intimate relationship with the Lord, our reflections on the divine mysteries risk becoming merely intellectual exercises and lose their credibility," Pope Benedict said to the faithful gathered in a sunny, windy St. Peter's Square.

Because his praises of Jesus "flowed like honey," the pope said, he earned the moniker "Dr. Mellifluus."

Along with St. Bernard, the pope said, "we must recognize that it's easier for man to seek and find God with prayer than with discussions."

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks.

In our continuing catechesis on the theologians of the Middle Ages, we now turn to one of the most outstanding, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. Bernard combined the austerity of the Cistercian monastic renewal with intense activity in the service of the Church in his time. Because of his great learning and deep spirituality he is venerated as a Doctor of the Church, and is often called "the last of the Fathers".

Together with his theological writings and homilies, including the celebrated Sermons on the Song of Songs, Bernard maintained a vast correspondence, developed warm friendships with his contemporaries, defended sound doctrine, and combated heresy and outbreaks of antisemitism. His spirituality was profoundly Christ-centered and contemplative, and his celebration of the sweetness of Christ's name won him the title of Doctor mellifluus.

Bernard is also known for his fervent devotion to our Lady and his insight into her intimate sharing in the sacrifice of her Son. May Bernard's example of a faith nourished by prayer, study and contemplation, lead us closer "to Jesus through Mary" and grant us that wisdom which finds joyful fulfillment in the knowledge of the saints in heaven.

Teacher, mentor, friend Father John Oetgen, O.S.B.

This week marked the passing of my dear friend Father John Oetgen, O.S.B. who died recently after a battle with cancer. He was 85.

Father John was one of my closest and dearest friends. I first met him while I was a student at Belmont Abbey College. He taught public speaking, which was a required part of the curriculum. With my big mouth I figured this class would be a cinch.

Then I met Father John, a mountain of a man who stood well over 6'4" tall, and dressed in the flowing black habit of a Benedictine monk. There he stood in the front of the class addressing us with his deep booming voice, complete with a Savannah drawl. A fleet admiral would envy Father John's commanding presence.

It was in this class that I lost any fear of speaking in front of any size audience. Thanks to him, as a professional speaker and entertainer, I can now speak in front of six or 6000, it doesn't matter. I studied public speaking at the foot of the master.

Later I was to have Father John for southern literature, "Grit Lit," as it was affectionately known among all the Yankee students at Belmont Abbey. It was there that I garnered affection for southern writers that would help me write as a southerner.

First and foremost, Father John was a teacher and mentor. Later however, Father John was the first

person I called when I felt moved to convert to Catholicism.

He is a man with whom I shared many warm visits these years since I graduated. I also visited with him after learning he had terminal cancer.

Father John took this in the same stride he took all things. He was prepared to meet Christ as few men I've ever known. He continued to attend Mass and kept his place with his brother monks until almost the very end. With the end of his mortal life at hand Father John was happy and content.

At his funeral at Belmont Abbey, it was standing room only. As I participated in the Mass I was confident that Father John was with our Lord. But still I had the abiding emptiness of knowing the void his departure for a heavenly home would have on all of us who knew and loved him so well.

Then Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., at the end of Mass, cheered us up by telling several classic Father John stories that focused on his deep sense of humor. One of these I'm obliged to tell here.

It was in 1953 when Father John had occasion to be in Rome with Father James Solari, Abbot Placid's older brother, who was then also a monk at Belmont Abbey. Both men found themselves dining one night at a restaurant where they were surrounded by people from around the world, all speaking different languages neither man understood. So Fathers John

Guest Column

BILL MELTON
GUEST COLUMNIST



and James made up their own language. These two men of God sat smack dab in the middle of a restaurant talking in homemade gibberish.

This went on for a while until they were overheard by a philologist; that's a feller who studies languages. And brother was he perplexed. He hadn't ever heard anything like it so he went over and asked what language it was they were speaking.

"Cherokee," said Father John.

Only Father John could've pulled that one off. And we will miss him.

Bill Melton, parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, writes a weekly column for the Gaston Gazette and Monroe Enquirer and can be contacted at wsmelton@wsmelton.com.

Priests in contemporary society

Clergy, seminarians reflect on priesthood at Year for Priests seminar

By CHAZ MUTH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Nearly 300 clergy and seminarians took time to reflect on the priest's role in contemporary society during a two-day symposium at The Catholic University of America in Washington marking Pope Benedict XVI's designated Year for Priests.

"The Holy Father tells us that we participate in the work of redemption," said Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. "That is what a priest does. He brings the Eucharist into the midst of the community, but he also brings the sacramental ministry of the church into the midst of the believing community."

In a homily during the Oct. 6-7 symposium's morning prayers, Archbishop Wuerl stressed that it was incumbent on priests that they use all potential resources "to make Christ visibly and effectively present in the community."

When he announced the special Year for Priests, Pope Benedict said he

hoped it would help priests "grow toward spiritual perfection" and value the need to be effective ministers and help the faithful "appreciate more fully the great gift of grace which the priesthood is."

The pope opened the Year for Priests June 19, 2009, which coincided with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, known as the universal patron of priests.

The symposium on "Ministerial Priesthood in the Third Millennium: Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests" was co-sponsored by Catholic University's School of Theology and Religious Studies and by Theological College, the national seminary of the school.

The audience of mostly clergy and seminarians listened to talks about topics ranging from the Catholic faith's spirit of ecumenism to the need for clergy to employ creative techniques in evangelization. Speakers included several priests and Washington Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley.

It's vital for pastors to use new technologies to reach out beyond their parishes and into the community, said Vincentian Father Vincent O'Malley, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Emmitsburg, Md.

In addition to hosting a weekly radio program, Father O'Malley posts his homilies on the parish Web site, and he told the audience that they attract an average of 800 readers each week, a number larger than the people who attend church services each week.

"I'm very concerned about the unchurched, who are not hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ," he said.

With the unchurched outnumbering the churchgoing population in the U.S., Father O'Malley said it's even more important that priests become "creative to be present to the people in our communities, (and) the unchurched."

It has become one of the most challenging tasks of the priest to reach out beyond the confines of the parish, said Father Walter G. Lewis, pastor of St. Mary Church in Richmond, Va.

Social network sites such as Facebook and Twitter are tools that can be employed in evangelization efforts, and it's vital for priests to keep up with modern technologies to remain relevant in contemporary culture, Father Lewis said.

"I also encourage our priests to go out to popular places in the community so that we are meeting people where they

are," Father O'Malley said. "If we're out there in these places, we can assure the people that God loves them and that we would love to see them back in church."

Jonathan Vanegas, 26, an Ecuadorian seminarian from Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Hyattsville, Md., said the symposium would inspire him in his formation to become a presence in his community so that more people will discover the richness faith adds to their lives.

"It is always good to come to listen, to have an open mind for everything in general," Vanegas said with a thick Ecuadorian accent. It's a discovery of "how to live this gift of God," he told Catholic News Service.

Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, Catholic University president, said the event, believed to be the only academic pastoral symposium organized in the U.S. so far to mark the Year for Priests, upholds the school's long tradition of contributing to the formation of priests and their education after ordination in areas like philosophy, social work, education, theology and canon law.

"It is fitting in this coming year ... that the university joins with the church throughout the world in making the importance of the priest's role and mission in the church and in contemporary society ever more clearly perceived," Father O'Connell told those in attendance.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Washington-area priests attend a special Mass marking the Year for Priests in the crypt church of The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. A symposium at the Catholic University of America examined the role of priesthood in contemporary society Oct. 6-7.

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